

INDIA'S
FEMALE HEADED
HOUSEHOLDS

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INDIA'S FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

PART I

THE REPORT

Chapter I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 The concepts of household and family as ultimate forms of social organisations with internal justice are being challenged not only by those concerned with the status of women, but also by economists and statisticians trying to quantify, measure and understand the actual condition in which people exist. One sphere of this new enquiry has been the phenomenon of female-headed households.

1.2 The notion of head of household, for the purpose of macro level quantitative surveys like the census, is one of reference for the other members of the household. The household survey method finds it easier to identify all members of a household against such a reference number. For Anthropologists, it is useful for the study of socio-cultural traditions like matriliney, or the extent and trend of the joint family system. For this purpose, a referral person becomes important for understanding the relationship between members of a household.

1.3 To development workers, however, the concept of head of household takes on a new meaning. For them, the head of household is the person through whom the scope and the nature of development needs can be ascertained and development benefits routed to the household. This is specially so for economic benefits like loans, subsidies, housing schemes etc. The correct identification of the head of household, therefore, becomes crucially important.

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1. Amartya Sen and Sunil Sengupta "Malnutrition of Rural Children and the sex bias". Economic and Political Weekly, Annual Number, 1983. Vol. XVIII No. 19,20,21.

1.4 For correct identification of the head of household, it is important to understand the power play within the household. The place of women in the power hierarchy of the household has to be gauged - power in terms of the decision making input of a person or in terms of the economics of the household within the basic framework of the sociocultural milieu of a region and within regions, in each class or caste.

Causes of Female - headedness

1.5 The socio-economic reasons that lead to the formation of female-headed households vary in different parts of the world. Conventionally, widowhood has been identified as the major reason for female headedness, however, in more recent times, there have been other factors which have accelerated the formation of these households :

(i) Male selective outmigration and break-up of kinship support or joint family system, as well as the introduction of new technology which is affecting most of the countries of Africa, West Asia and South-East Asia.

(ii) Unstable serial unions, female abandonment and also increasing incidence of divorce and separation in the West due to assertion of equal rights by women, which also includes a rejection of the head of household as an authoritarian male.

(iii) Female outmigration from rural to urban areas in search of employment and from labour surplus, low wage, developing countries to labour-short, high-wage developed countries.

1.6 Some of these factors like male outmigration, breakup of kinship support etc. do contribute to the formation of female headed households in India; however, widowhood continues to be the single most important reason for female headedness.

1.7 Two major issues have been in the forefront of the international debate on female headedness :

(i) The first is concerned with the basic methodological question of identification of female-headed households. It is vitally important that the accurate and comprehensive information is made available through macro and micro level surveys.

(ii) The second is that of differentially higher incidence of poverty among female-headed households. Regional studies in Botswana¹ and the Caribbean² have shown that such households are mainly within the poverty groups.

1.8 In developing countries, a related issue that arises is that of development inputs for such households. If the situation and needs of such households are different, then development programmes must be oriented to cater to these special needs.

The Indian Debate

1.9 Recognition of the phenomenon of female-headed household is a recent one in India and little work has been done on it so far. A study based on a micro-survey shows that the proportion of female-headed households is high among the scheduled castes and these households are dependent mainly on wage-labour³. This study finds them to be a "more marginalised section of the population in the rural areas, even among the poorest of the poor"⁴. The same study also finds that such households are not involved in and cannot take advantage of development programmes.

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1. Kossotdji, Sherrie and Eva Mueller: "The Economic and Demographic Status of Female Headed Households in Rural Botswana". Research report, Population Studies Centre, University of Michigan, March, 1981.
 2. Massiah, Joycelin: "Women-headed Households and Employment in the Caribbean", in Womens' Studies International - a supplement to Womens' Studies Quarterly.
 3. G. Parthasarathy: "Rural Poverty and Households with Female Heads". Paper presented at the Seminar on Womens' Work and Employment, in New Delhi, April, 1982.
 4. Ibid.

1.10 Another study, based on secondary data, challenges the hypothesis that such households are the poorest of the poor^{/1}. However, in a later study, the same author found that the proportion of female-headed households was inversely related to the size of land holding^{/2}:

1.11 To test some of these issues, a study based on primary data collected in a village near Bombay, found that the proportion of such households was high at both ends of the socio-economic hierarchy, - among the better-offs, mostly Christians and among the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward castes^{/3}. The characteristics of the female headed households among the propertied and the assetless varied greatly. The female heads, who were owner-cultivators had to hire male labour for ploughing. The grown-up sons of these households considered themselves above such work, but the women of the household helped out wherever possible. On the other hand, the scheduled caste/scheduled tribe women who were dependent on wage labour, found that the presence or absence of the men of their households did not make much difference to their life pattern.

Issues

1.12 These studies as well as the review of the secondary data raise certain major issues in the Indian context.

(1) What are the factors that lead to the formation of female-headed households and how far is their condition a function of their cause. The factors that act as deterrants to their formation also need investigation.

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- /1. Pravin Visaria: "Poverty and Living Standards in Asia: an Overview of Main Results and Lessons of Selected Household Survey". Living Standard Measurement Study(LSMS), Working Copy No.2, The World Bank, Washington D.C.
 - /2. Pravin and Leela Visaria: "Indian Households with Female Heads - Incidence, Characteristics and Level of Living". Paper presented at the Workshop on Women and Poverty, Calcutta, March, 1983.
 - /3. Maitreyi Krishnaraj and Jyoti Ranadive: "The Rural Female Heads of Households - Hidden from View". Occasional paper of Research, Unit on Women's Studies, SNDT Women's University, Bombay, 1981.

(ii) To what extent are these households associated with poverty and/or other forms of backwardness.

(iii) To what extent do the female headed households have access to state sponsored development schemes.

(iv) Do the female headed households display characteristics demographic and socio-economic that are distinct from the male headed households? If so, what are the policy implications.

1.13 To examine these issues, and to test the hypothesis that female headed households in India are at a greater disadvantage as compared to other households - socially and economically, the Institute of Social Studies Trust, at the instance of the International Labour Office, Geneva, undertook a study of the female headed households in India.

1.14 The analysis contained in this report is based on available secondary data, as well as on primary household survey by the Institute of Social Studies Trust. Secondary data have been drawn from the Census of India of 1961 and 1971 and from retabulated data of the 32nd Round of the National Sample Survey conducted in 1977-78.

1.15. The primary data is based on a detailed micro level household survey, carried out in twelve villages scattered over four States in India. The survey was designed to capture not only quantitative evidence on demographic and economic features of the households, but also qualitative information on decision making power of these households and the quality of life experienced by them.

Characteristics of the Sites : Primary Survey

1.16 To capture the variation in the incidence of female headedness and to highlight certain important issues brought up earlier, twelve sites (villages) were selected purposively for the survey.¹

1. For details, see Methodology in Appendix.

(i) The issue of the association between poverty and female headed households needed special investigation. Four villages in the State of West Bengal and one in Uttar Pradesh, were selected on the strength of concentration of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population. These castes and tribes can be taken as proxy indicators for poverty, as most of these groups are landless or marginal landholders².

(ii) Male selective out migration, an important factor in the formation of female headed households, was taken up in one village, Khirakot in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Such out migration has been a regular feature in this area for almost a century. This was expected to provide an important insight into female headed households, since the hill economy in most of Himalayan India women are the principal agricultural workers and the mainstay of the economy.³

(iii) Matrilineal family system is followed in certain areas in the south and north-eastern regions of India and may show some interesting characteristics particular to the female headed households of these areas. Two villages in the district of South Kanara (Dakshina Kanada⁴) in the State of Karnataka were selected, where castes like the Bhunts, Bhillana and Maghaveers all follow a form of matriliney called 'Aliya Santhanam (see Appendix III for detail).

2. Government of India, Census of 1971, Special Tables on Scheduled Castes, Series 1, part V A (i).

3. (i) Anjali Bahuguna : "Role of Rural Women in the Economy of Garhwal Region". Paper circulated at the Technical Seminar on Women's Work and Employment. Mimeo, New Delhi, April 1982.

(ii) "The field labourers are extremely few amounting to only 3337 and it is symptomatic of the Kumaon Social System which leave most of the field work to women that 2/3rd of these should be females". H.C. Walton ed. Gazetteer of Almora-Volume XXXV District Gazetteer of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. 1901.

4. In this report the term South Kanara has been used instead of "Dakshina Kannada" which is the translated version of the term South Kanara.

(iv) Utilisation of development inputs by female headed households is another issue that needs assessment. For this, two sites were selected from Bangalore district of Karnataka State, where sericulture promotion is being actively encouraged by the Government.

(v) An attempt has been made to explain the extremely low proportion of female-headed households in the north-western region of India. Two villages in Bharatpur district of the State of Rajasthan were selected for this purpose. However, indepth study of the features of female headed households was not carried out in these villages since the proportion of such households is insignificant. Instead, some general observations were made and a few tentative hypothesis have been suggested as to the reasons for low incidence of female headedness.

1.17 Initially, the survey sought to capture the supportive role of women by looking at their economic contribution in a cross-section of households. Women, even when they are not the main earners, help in augmenting the family income as supporting earners. Much of this is not reflected in the official data of the macro level statistical agencies. This all-important dimension of women's role, needs evaluation. It may also help us to re-examine and redefine the conventional concept of the head of household. Conventionally, headship is designated by nomination, rather than by contribution to family income. This way of defining head of household may lead to underestimation of female headed households and under-representation of women's work.

1.18 An attempt was made to do this exercise. However, the task of collecting not only income data, but also source of income of individuals in a family; and further, use of income by the individuals and consumption of goods and services within the family is almost impossible in these types of households. Collection of such data, which is now being attempted, on intra-household food distribution in India, requires intense observation and participation over long durations. This study's budget would not include that methodology.

Chapter II
SECONDARY DATA : FINDINGS

The Census

2.1 The Census of 1971 gives the proportion of households headed by women down to the district level. Using the state level information for all India, and district level information for selected states, a visual picture can be created about the prevalence of such households¹. (see maps and Table S1)

2.2 The all-India Picture : (i) There is an increase in the proportion of female headed households as one moves from the northern to the southern states.

(ii) Except for the States of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh the other four states of north and north-west India show a very low proportion of such households.

(iii) In the central and eastern areas of the country, the percentage of such households is closer to the all-India average of 9.4 per cent. This includes Gujarat and Maharashtra in the west, Madhya Pradesh in the heart of the country and Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa in the east.

(iv) In the four states of the south, the proportion of such households is above the all-India average, with Kerala indicating a comparatively higher proportion.

(v) The north-eastern states have their own pattern. Assam and Tripura have low proportion of female-headed households, Manipur has average proportion, whereas Nagaland and Meghalaya show a high proportion of such households - the proportion being particularly high in Meghalaya.

1. Government of India, Census of 1971 : Social and Cultural Tables

Series 14, Part II C (ii), C-I Part A, pp. 2, 14

Series 18, Part II C (ii), C-I Part A, p. 6

Series 21, Part II C (ii), C-I Part A, pp. 6, 16

Series 22, Part II C (i), C-I Part A, pp. 40, 44

2.3 District Level Data⁹: District level data for selected states show a great deal of variations within a state. Taking the case of Rajasthan first, the overall picture is that of very low proportion of female-headed households. However, the central belt, extending from north to south, shows a proportion closer to the the national average.

2.4 In the state of Uttar Pradesh, one finds a clear difference between the northern districts and the eastern districts. In the districts of northern hill area, the proportion of such households is as high as 30 per cent. The eastern districts on the other hand, tend to be near the state average. The rest of Uttar Pradesh displays uniformly low proportion of female-headed households.

2.5 Moving eastward to West Bengal, one finds that the percentage of these households closely corresponds to the national average being higher than that in Rajasthan and U.P.

2.6 In the state of Karnataka in South-India, in contrast to the states discussed earlier, the proportion of female-headed households is above 12 per cent. Within Karnataka, the districts in the north have lower incidence of such households; so do the hill districts and the industrialised district of Bangalore. On the other hand, the district of South Kanara (Dakshina Kanada) has a very high percentage of households headed by women.

2.7 Age characteristics : Census of 1971 : The Census of 1971, disaggregates the data on sex of head of household by age groups and by rural/urban status¹. (see Table S.2 and Graphs A1 (1-4) One finds that these age-groups viz. below 30 years, 30 to 49 and 50 and above, form a step like pattern on a bar diagram. There is a clear upward trend in the occurrence of female headedness with increase in the age group in almost all the districts and states selected for the survey.

2.8 In urban areas, the proportion in the age group above 50 appears to be higher than that in the rural areas, although the proportion of female headed households to total households is higher in rural areas.

1. Census of India, 1971.

2.9 The State of Uttar Pradesh and some districts of other states differ slightly from the overall pattern. In the urban areas of Birbhum district in West Bengal the proportion of female heads of households in the age group below 30 is higher than that in the age group 30 to 49. Uttar Pradesh also shows a similar pattern, but only for rural areas.

2.10 The district of Almora in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh is unique in so far as it shows a mirror inversion of the overall pattern, i.e. the proportion of female headed households decreases with increase in the age-group of the head of household.

2.11 Landholding characteristics : Census of 1961 : The Census of 1971 does not cross-classify the data on sex of head of household by landholding size. Landholding, is the most important asset in rural areas and therefore a major indicator of the economic status of households. This information, therefore, has been drawn from the Census of 1961. Using the data of 1961 Census, cross-classified by landholding of rural cultivator households only¹ (See Table S.3 and Graph AII (1 & 2), one finds that there is no uniform pattern.

Rajasthan and Karnataka indicate an inverse relationship between the proportion of female headed households and the size of landholding. On the other hand, in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, the proportion of female headed households decreased upto landholding groups of 10 to 12 acres and then increases again. This pattern is more pronounced in West Bengal.

1. Government of India, Census of 1961.

(a) Vol. XI, Mysore, Part II-C(i), Social and Cultural Tables, Bangalore P.2, South Kanara P.11.

(b) Vol. XIV, Rajasthan, Part II-C(i), Social and Cultural Tables, Bharatpur, pp. 8,9

(c) Vol. XV, Uttar Pradesh. Part II-C (i), Social and Cultural Tables, Almora p. 12, Gorakhpur p. 60

(d) Vol. XVI, West Bengal and Sikkim, Part II-C(i), Social and Cultural Tables, Birbhum p. 21, Midnapore p. 22.

2.12 Some districts do not confirm to the overall pattern of their respective States. South Kanara (Dakshina Kanara) district in Karnataka shows a high proportion of female headed households in the marginal landholding groups. Only 10 to 15 per cent of such households belong to other size classes.

The National Sample Survey Organisation

2.13 The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) is the second major organisation which conducts macro level surveys. Although it collects information on sex of head of households, yet it does not public household data disaggregated by male/female-headed households.

2.14 For this study, the NSS 32nd round (Employment/Unemployment round) data of 1977-78 were specially retabulated. A two-stage stratified random sampling is followed by the survey. Information is available on landholding, per capita expenditure, activity pattern, average household size etc., all the data relating to NSS are presented in Part II¹.

2.15 Findings : (1) Like the Census of 1971, the National Sample Survey data indicate a very low proportion of female-headed households to total sample households for all-India and for the districts selected for this study. The lowest is 6.2 per cent in Bharatpur district in the State of Rajasthan and the highest is 22.3 per cent in South Kanara (Dakshina Kanara) district of Karnataka State. (See Table S.1).

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1. It should be noted that the National Sample Survey figures are not statistical estimates based on samples drawn for concerned districts. They are merely the number of female-headed and male-headed households occurring in the survey sample. The statistical estimates based on the samples, drawn for the districts have not been built up as the estimates will be subject to high order of sampling error. These figures have been used in this report to give only a general picture of the districts in so far as the characteristic features of the female headed households are concerned.

(ii) The data also show that except in South Kanara (Dakshina Kanara); a high proportion - 25 to 40 per cent of the female-headed households are single-membered. In comparison, single-member households form only 2 to 6 per cent of the male-headed households. (See Table S.4.)

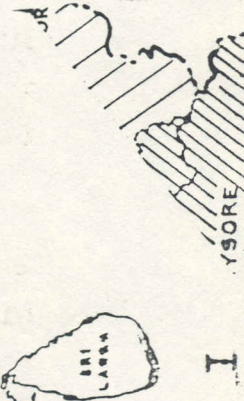
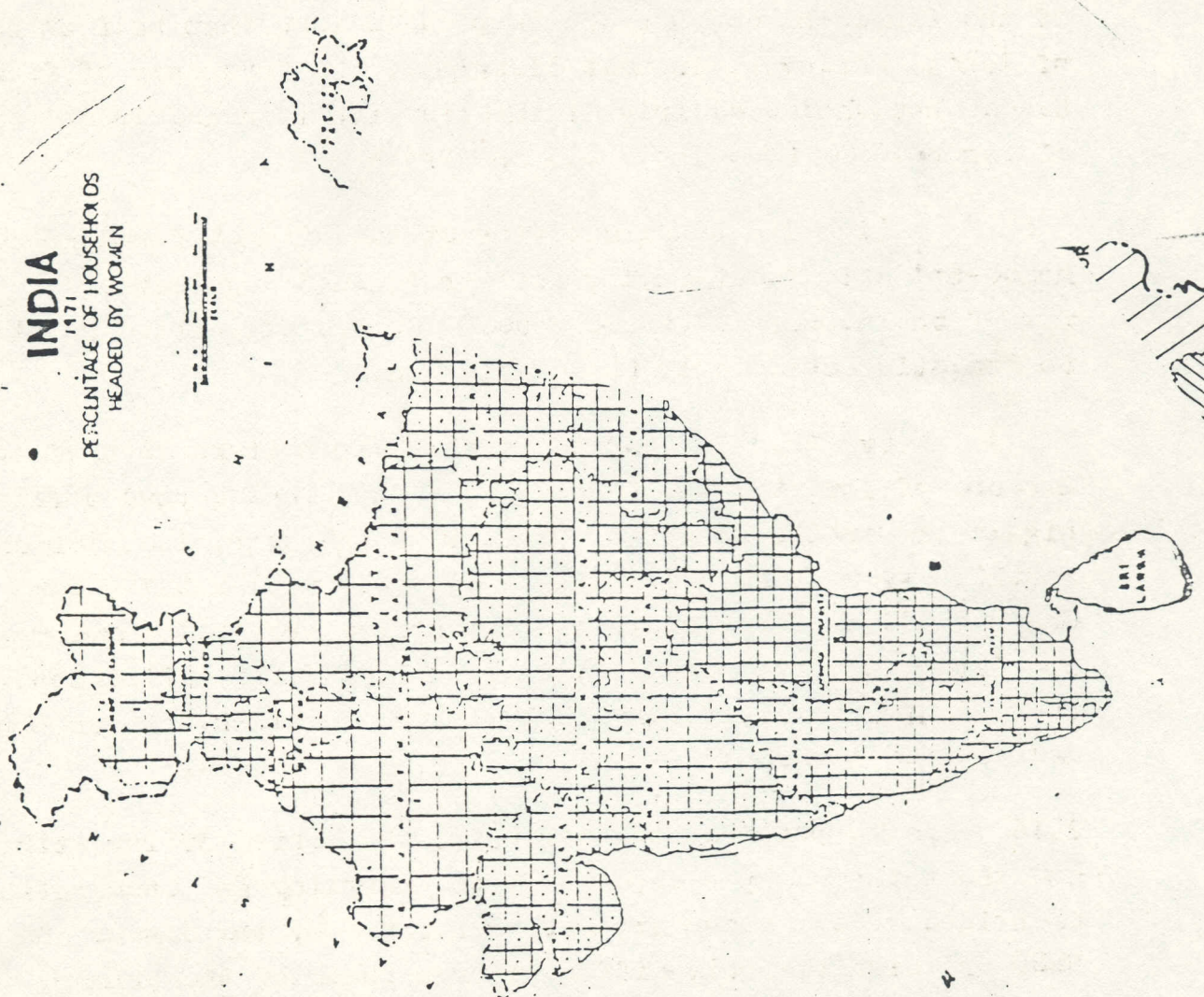
(iii) When one looks at the economic condition of the female-headed households, the data indicate that in Bangalore, Gorakhpur, Birbhum and Midnapore districts, 55 to 65 per cent of the female-headed households possess less than half an acre of land. Moreover, in most districts, the frequency of female headed households clearly diminishes with increase in the size of landholding (See Table S.5 and Graph G I).

(iv) The usual activity status of most female-headed households is 'self-employment' or 'casual wage labour'. Very few of the members of these households are classified as attending to domestic duties only (See Table S.6.)

(v) When per capita monthly expenditure is used as a measure of poverty, the female-headed households have a relatively higher proportion among the poorest of the poor, i.e. per capita monthly expenditure below Rupees 40. (See tables S.7 & S.8. and Graph B III). However, if the categories are 'below poverty level' and 'above poverty level' (See Appendix III for definition), then there is not much difference between the female-headed and the male-headed households.

2.16 The purpose, the coverage, the period of investigation and the methodology - especially the sampling and enumeration technique of the secondary data generated by the Census and the NSSO are significantly different from those of the primary data generated by the micro level household survey conducted by ISST. Therefore, comparison between the two sets of data may not be statistically valid. In the sections that follow, we have pointed out interesting similarities as well as major differences in the findings of the macro surveys and the micro survey. However, too much should not be read into these and the macro data should be viewed as an interesting backdrop against which the details of the micro survey emerge.

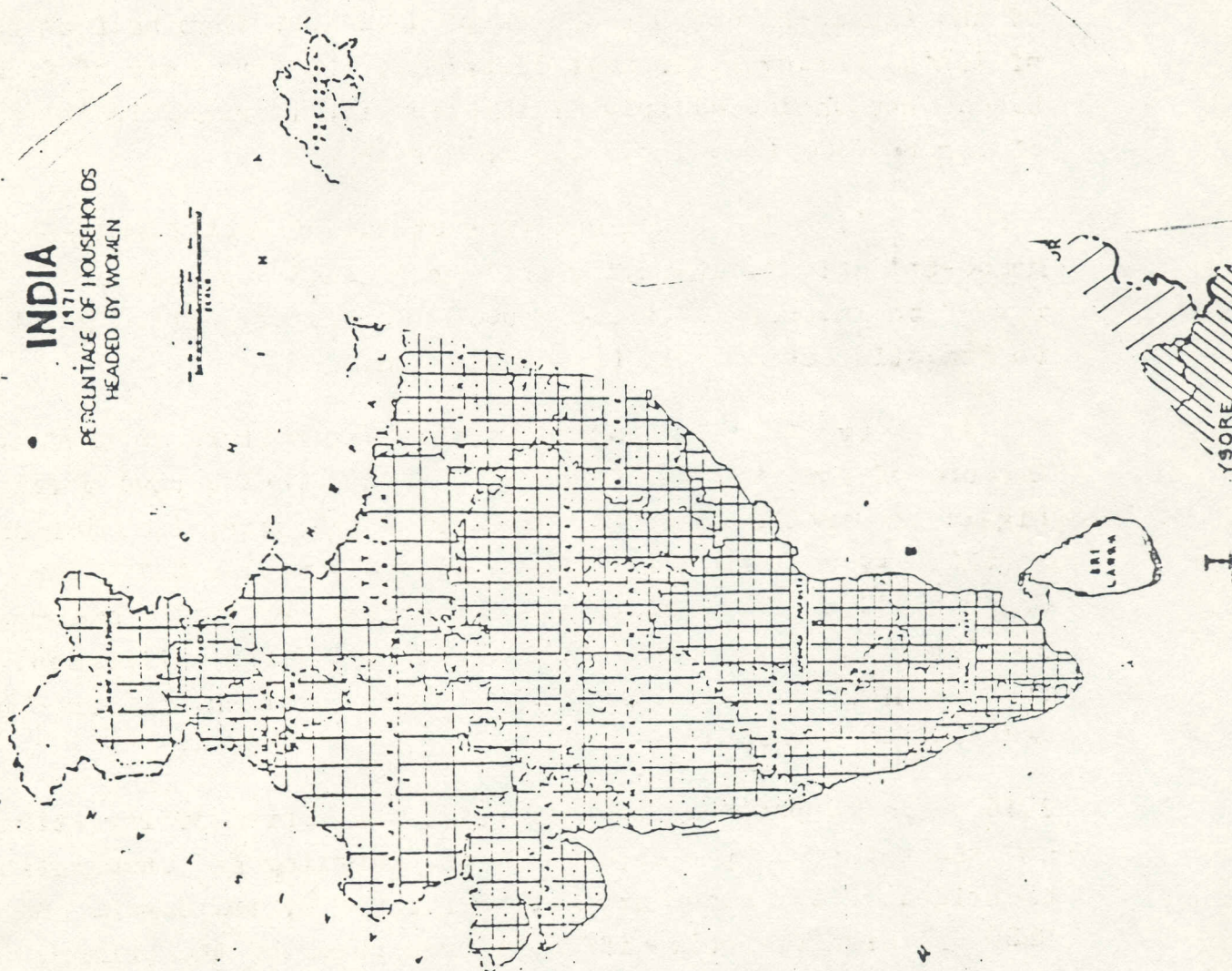
INDIA
1971
PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS
HEADED BY WOMEN



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INDIA

1971
PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS
HEADED BY WOMEN

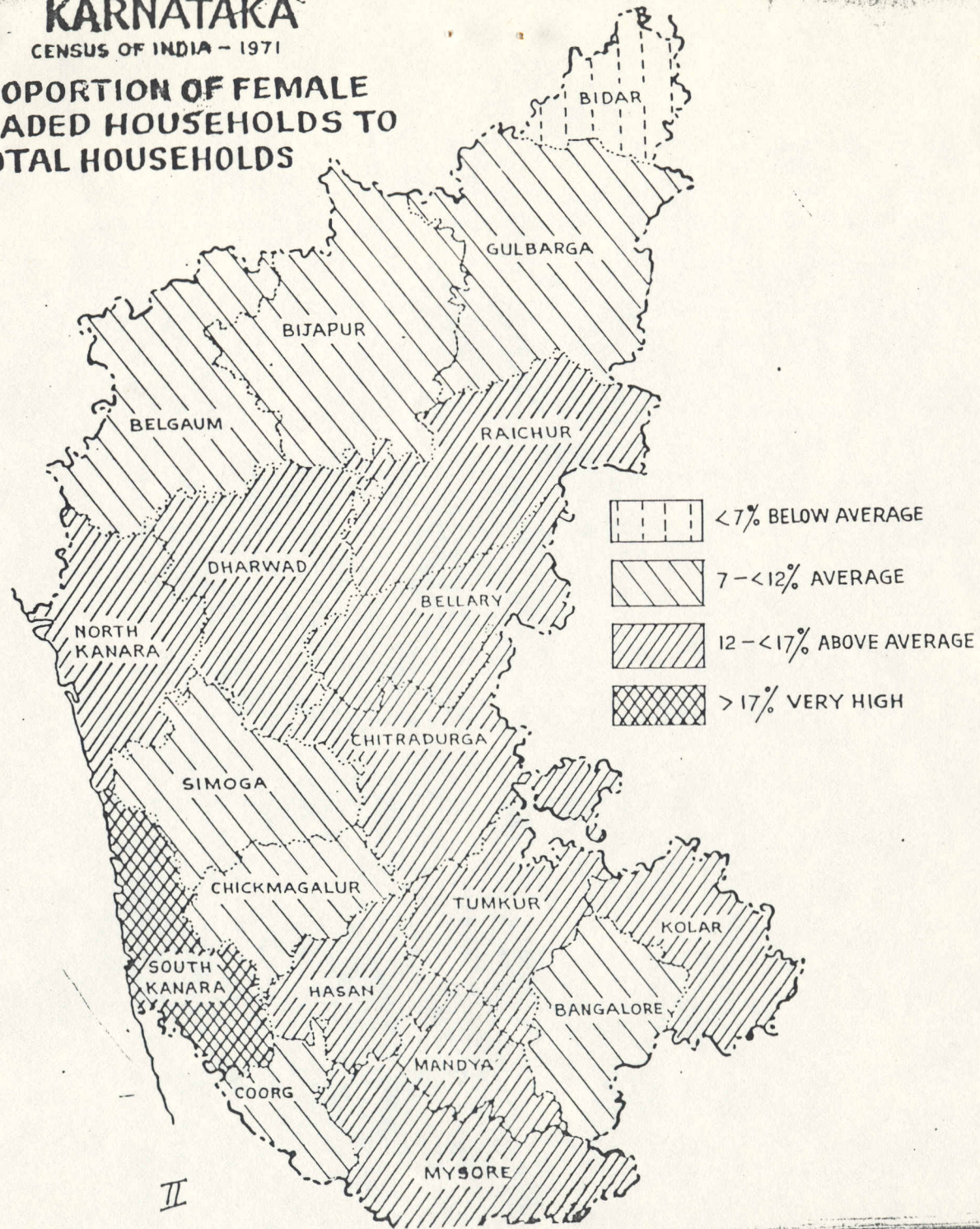


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KARNATAKA

CENSUS OF INDIA - 1971

PROPORTION OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS TO TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS



UTTAR PRADESH

CENSUS OF INDIA-1971

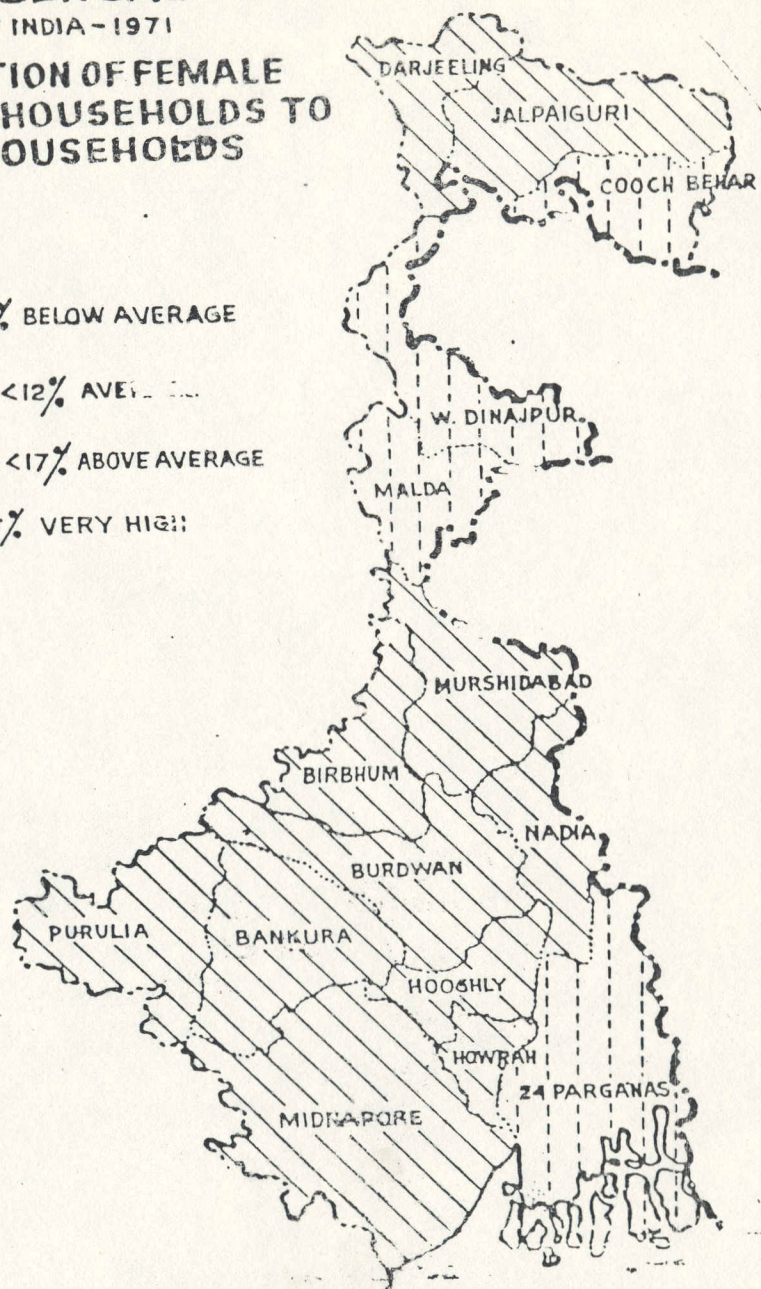
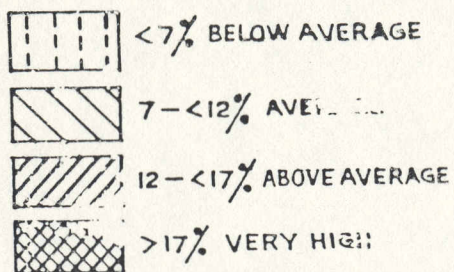
PROPORTION OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS



WEST BENGAL

GENSUS OF INDIA - 1971

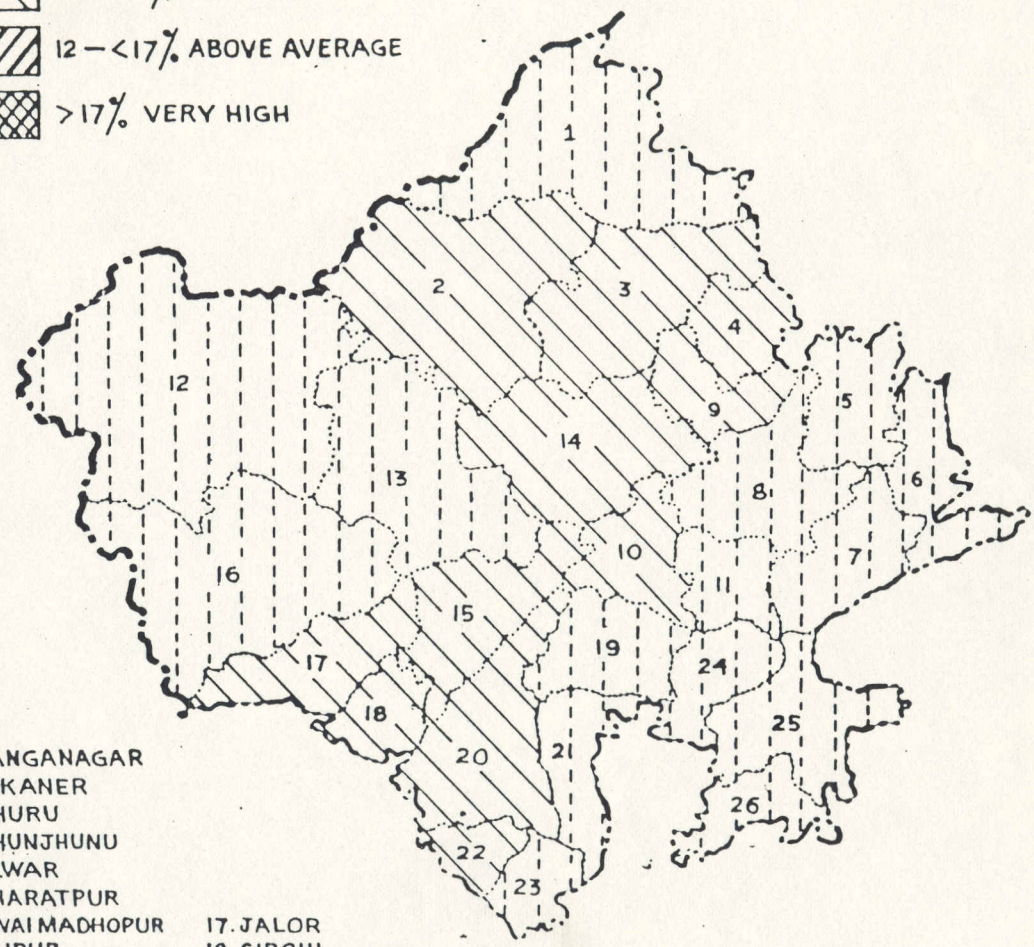
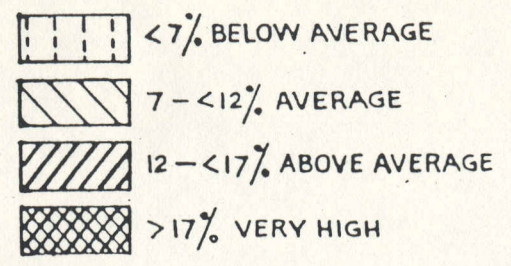
PROPORTION OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS TO TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS



RAJASTHAN

CENSUS OF INDIA - 1971

PROPORTION OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS TO TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS



- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. GANGANAGAR | 17. JALOR |
| 2. BIKANER | 18. SIROHI |
| 3. CHURU | 19. BHILWARA |
| 4. JHUNJHUNU | 20. UDAIPUR |
| 5. ALWAR | 21. CHITTORGAR |
| 6. BHARATPUR | 22. DUNGAPUR |
| 7. SWAIMADHOPUR | 23. BANSWARA |
| 8. JAIPUR | 24. BUNDI |
| 9. SIKAR | 25. KOTA |
| 10. AJMER | 26. JHALAWAR |
| 11. TONK | |
| 12. JAISALMER | |
| 13. JODHPUR | |
| 14. NAGPUR | |
| 15. PALI | |
| 16. BARMER | |

Chapter III

SUMMARY FINDINGS : PRIMARY DATA

The major issues taken up for this study were chalked out in an earlier section. Here, the primary data generated by the household survey of ISST, will be discussed in terms of five main issues which are particularly relevant to an understanding of the formation and the socioeconomic situation of the female-headed households. Certain important demographic features too are portrayed here.

3.2. Poverty and female-headed households : The primary data from the villages surveyed, clearly indicate that the female-headed households are worse off than their male-headed counterparts, both in terms of their asset base and in terms of their level of expenditure. Land is the most important asset in rural India and the data from these villages display the differential pattern of landholding between the female and male-headed households. While more than half the female-headed households are landless (see chart 3) this proportion is much lower among the male-headed households. This point is further strengthened by the fact that except in one village, land possessed per capita is uniformly lower among the female headed households¹. (see table p.8.)

3.3 Treating per capita monthly expenditure as another indicator of economic condition of households, one finds that although incidence of poverty is generally high - especially in the West Bengal villages, yet in most sites the proportion of female headed households below the poverty level (see Appendix III for definition) is higher than in the male-headed households. (See Chart 3).

1. One can assume that the quality of land possessed is not significantly different between the two sets of households.

3.4 An important related issue, highlighted by the primary data is that in the five ^{eastern} villages, the proportion of scheduled caste/scheduled tribe population is very high (see Chart 1). In the West Bengal villages for example, an overwhelming majority of the female headed households belong to these caste/tribe groups and almost all these households are below the poverty level.

3.5 It is interesting that the primary survey findings point to a higher work participation rate among the female headed households (see Chart 3). A possible explanation may lie in the fact that wages for women is generally lower than that for men and therefore in female headed households, where the sex ratio is favourable to women, more members have to work to keep up the family income.

3.6 These households have a larger proportion of workers, yet their per capita expenditure is lower. Moreover, a large proportion of these households are in the landless category. All this indicates that the female headed households are at a definite disadvantage as compared to the male headed households.

3.7. Male selective out migration and female headed households : Comparing the poverty level of the households of Khirakot to that of the five eastern villages, the smaller proportion below the poverty line is noticeable (see Chart 3).

3.8 The female headed households of Khirakot are better-off than some of the other villages in terms of landholding. The proportion of landless here is smaller than that in the four Karnataka villages and one village of West Bengal. However, a large proportion of the female headed households of Khirakot are marginal landholders and not a single female headed holds more than 2.5 acres of land.

3.9 Khirakot is a village with more than 40 per cent of its households headed by women, most of whom are wives of migrants (see Chart 1). These women, being wives of migrants who are of working age group, are younger than their eastern counterparts.

They perceive themselves and are perceived by others as heads of households inspite of not being main earners, mainly because they look after agricultural operations and manage their households. While they are marginal landholders, remittance from their migrant husbands make them somewhat better-off than the female heads of the eastern villages.

3.10 Given the specific characteristics of the village, the proportion of female headed households is greater among social groups other than scheduled castes. Male outmigrants from the village are mostly from the better-off families who have had some education.

3.11 It appears that these women are in a better position than their eastern sisters in terms of all socio-economic indicators. Case studies from the village show that these women are not only active decision makers in the sphere of their households, but also in matters concerning the village as a whole ¹.

3.12 Matriliny and female headed households : Certain castes in the Udipi taluka (sub-division of a district) of South Kanara (Dakshina Kanara) district of the State of Karnataka follow matrilineal family system. These castes belong to land owning as well as landless groups.

3.13 The extent of poverty in terms of per capita expenditure in these two villages is lowest among all the sites - both for female and male headed households. As far as landholding structure is concerned, the female headed households are uniformly distributed among the assetless and the marginal and small landholders. Very few female headed households possess large landholdings. (see Chart 3 and Table P.7).

1. Kamal Joshi, "The Khirakot Movement - a true story", in Vana, No. 5, June 1984, pp. 24-27.

3.14 Literacy and level of education of women is higher in this area than in other parts of the country (see Table P.16.). Access to wage and salary paid jobs is easier as a result of this. However, in contrast to the other sites, in Ambalpady and Mattu larger proportion of women were recorded as 'engaged in domestic activity' (see Table P.14.)

3.15 Development schemes and female-headed households :

One way of ameliorating the depressed quality of life of a particular set of households is to bring them within the purview of Government sponsored development schemes. For this study, enquiries were made about the access to official rural development schemes on the part of the economically weaker households, in order to find out whether the benefits were reaching the intended beneficiaries. Primary data show that in the villages of Karnataka there is some impact of the Integrated Rural Development Scheme and Janata Housing Schemes among the female headed household (see Chart 1). However, both awareness and access to benefits of such schemes are very low in the villages of West Bengal. In the scheduled caste, scheduled tribe dominated village of Belma, where the need for such schemes is obvious, there is not a single beneficiary among the female heads of households.

3.16 In rural Karnataka, sericulture is an important productive activity and women participate significantly in rearing silk worms and reeling cocoons¹. There are a few special sericulture projects in this area. However, there is no perceptible impact on women's employment, specially in the female-headed households. Table P.17 shows the gender specific work participation pattern in sericulture in male and female headed households in the village of Thamsandra and Keralalusandra. Although a slightly higher percentage of female headed households are engaged in sericulture work, the number of men employed

1. A.H. Rajapurohit and K.V. Govinda Raju : "A Study of Employment and Income in Sericulture". Institute of Economic and Social Change Bangalore, 1981.

in this work is higher than the number of women, both in male and female headed households indicating an unequal sharing of the benefits of development projects.

3.17 Low incidence of female headedness : the case of Bharatpur : Extremely low incidence of female headed households (see Table S.1) in certain areas of India as indicated by the census, needs an explanation. For this purpose, a preliminary study was made of two villages, viz. Mehtoli and Etrampura in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan State. In depth study was not conducted, because in Mehtoli 3 households out of 28 and in Etrampura 1 out of 58 are female headed. The Census of 1971 shows a proportion of only 2.77. Of such households, and this is reflected in the villages selected for our study.

3.18 Mehtoli is a multi-caste village; Etrampura on the other hand, is predominantly tribal. In both these villages the levirate system prevails. In this system, after the husband's death, the woman marries his younger brother. Excepting the Rajputs, almost all caste groups and the Meena tribe follow this custom. One reason behind this practice is to ensure that property is not sub-divided. This practice is an important deterrent to the formation of female headed households.

3.19 In northern and north-western India including Rajasthan the sex ratio is adverse to females. Females infanticide, neglect of female children, illiteracy and customs and traditions adverse to women, have contributed to this situation. The adverse sex ratio and its underlying condition may prevent the formation of female headed households.

3.20 In Mehtoli, the joint family system prevails in most households. This would help support any widowed/separated women who has ~~not~~ remarried. As will be seen from the demographic details given later, a woman is rarely considered head of household when there are adult males in the family.

3.21 In Etrampura, although nuclear family is the pattern, yet the proportion of young working men being more than in Mehtoli, a woman is rarely considered head of household.

3.22 The location of these villages is also of important. This area is part of the Chambal river valley, where insecurity is created by a large number of dacoit groups. This area is also notorious for traffic in women. The kind of insecurity that women face in these villages as well as in the larger region around it is probably related to the unfavourable sex ratio and low incidence of female headed households.

3.23 Demographic features of the female headed households:

(i) The primary data show that the proportion of female heads of households in the age group 50 and above is higher among the female heads as compared to their male counterparts (see Chart 2).

(ii) Female headed households have a smaller proportion of children both in the age group below 15 and also in the age group below 5 (see Chart 2 and Table P.3)

(iii) Chart 2 shows that the proportion of single-member households is negligible, both in female and the male headed households.

(iv) Majority of the female heads of households are either widowed or separated or divorced (see Table P.6). This proportion is much lower among the male heads.

(v) The average household size, both including and excluding single-member households is smaller in the female headed households (see Chart 2).

(vi) The sex ratio, i.e. females per thousand males is uniformly higher in the female headed households (see Chart 2).

Chapter IV

PROFILE OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

4.1 The primary data for this study, as stated earlier, were collected from twelve villages spread over three states in India. A specially designed questionnaire was canvassed in sample households. In addition, to gain a better insight into the functioning of female headed households, the interviewers went back to a few selected sample households to obtain a more comprehensive picture of these households through extensive interviews. In this section an attempt is made to portray the different socio-economic aspects of the female headed households as projected by both quantitative and qualitative evidence from the survey as well as from the interview-based case studies and group meetings (see Appendix I for details of the methodology).

4.2 It is clear from the data that although regional variations exist, the female headed households display a striking commonality. It is this commonality that we seek to capture by looking at (1) the demographic characteristics, (2) the economic condition, (3) decision making behaviour and (4) the overall quality of life that they experience. An attempt is also made to draw out the implications of the attributes that are specific to female headed households.

Quantitative Evidence : The Demographic Dimensions

4.3 Age structure of the heads of households : The evidence of the primary survey confirms the census finding that the female heads of households tend to be in the older age group (see chapter 2 for details of the census). In every village surveyed for this study, the proportion of heads of households in the age group 60 and above is higher among the female heads as compared to their male counterpart. (see Table P.1.). Moreover, approximately 64 per cent of the female heads are aged 45 and above as against 48 per cent of the male heads of households. This is an expected result since a large proportion of female heads are widows and age-sex specific mortality rate is uniformly adverse to males in the age group above 45.

4.4 An interesting point to note is that in some villages e.g. Khirakot, a fair proportion (above 30 per cent) of the female heads are in the reproductive age group viz. in the age group of 15 to 44 years. This implies that the arduous task of headship is sometimes combined not only with household chores but also with child bearing and rearing.

4.5 Age composition of households . The primary data indicate that in most of the villages, female headed households have a smaller proportion of children in the age group below 15 (see Table p.2). In a low income agricultural economy as represented by these villages, children start helping their elders in agricultural work from an early age. Therefore, children below 5 years may be a better indicator of dependency. But here too, the female headed households have a lower percentage of children below 5 as compared to the male headed households (see Table p.3.). This is not surprising given the typical age and marital status of the female heads, marital fertility is likely to be lower in these households.

4.6 Higher sex ratio : Another expected result is the high sex ratio i.e. females per thousand males, in the female headed households. Table P.4 shows that except in Ambalpady village, women outnumber men in female headed households. In male headed households on the other hand, this ratio is generally lower.

4.7 Single member households . In the ten villages surveyed, the incidence of single member households is negligible. Table P.5 shows that in the listed households, 5 out of 84 in Uttar Pradesh and 16 out of 227 in Karnataka are single membered. The West Bengal village of Panchakhali is an exception.

4.8 The National Sample Survey 32 round data indicate a much higher proportion of single member households among the female headed households. This is probably due to the difference in the sampling technique of the National Sample Survey and this micro survey.

4.9 Marital status of the heads of households : The genesis of female headedness in the Indian context appears to be widowhood. The primary findings indicate that while more than 90 per cent of male heads of households are currently married, this proportion is only 20 to 40 per cent in the case of female heads (see Table P.6). In the ten villages taken together, over 63 per cent of the female heads are either widowed or separated or divorced. This proportion is as low as 4 per cent in the case of male heads - in no village does the proportion rise above 8 per cent. The two extreme cases are Panchakhali in West Bengal where less than 4 per cent of the female heads are currently married and Khirakot in Uttar Pradesh with a long tradition of male outmigration, where more than 70 per cent of female heads are currently married.

4.10 Another interesting feature is that while unmarried male heads of households can be found in all the villages studied, only one village, viz. Keralalusandra, reports a female head of household who is unmarried (see Table P.6). This suggests a cultural deterrent on the assumption of position of authority by unmarried women even in areas where matriliney is prevalent.

4.11 The case studies based on interviews of a few female heads from the sample households, support this finding (see Appendix II for case study). It appears that a woman is not likely to be acknowledged as head of her household in the presence of an able bodied, co-resident, income-earning spouse.

4.12 Similar results are established in a study using the NSS 27th round data (1972-73)¹. It has been shown that in

1. Prayin and Leela Visaria . "Indian Households with Female Heads : their Incidence, Characteristics and Levels of Living". Paper presented at Workshop on Women and Poverty organised by the Indian Council for Social Science Research and Centre for the Study of Social Sciences, Calcutta, March, 1983.

the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra, between 65 and 81 per cent of the female heads of households are widowed or separated or divorced. The corresponding figure for male heads of households is 6 to 7 per cent.

4.13 The Census of 1971 record 3 to 4 per cent of female heads of households as currently married¹. Indeed, in India, the female head of household is typically a middle aged widow.

4.14 The widowed marital status imposes additional burden and constraint on the female head. Since majority of the female heads of households in these rural areas are engaged in cultivation (see Table P.13), the absence of an adult male implies that the widow has to depend on some male relation or acquaintance or on hired labour for ploughing the land or for carrying out other related work like marketing the crop, which might place her under social and financial obligation. Sometimes a widow may be forced lease out the land to share-croppers, jeopardising her own rights to the land. This particular point is also supported by the case studies.

4.15 In the Indian context, the strong correlation between widowed marital status and female headedness is due to both cultural and demographic factors. Customarily, there is likely to be an age difference of 5 to 10 years between the husband and the wife and demographically the age specific death rates are higher for men in the age group above 40. Therefore, widowed women become statistically prominent in the higher age groups.

4.16. Average household size . The average household size both including and excluding single-member households is smaller in the female headed household in every village (see Table P.5.). At the same time, the relatively poor West Bengal villages and also in the scheduled caste dominated village of

1. Derived from the data given in :
Government of India, Census of 1971 . Social and Cultural
Tables. Series I, Part II C (ii), C-I Part A.

Uttar Pradesh viz. Amorah, the female headed households are smaller than these found in the relatively affluent Karnataka villages and also in the village of Khirakot in Uttar Pradesh. It appears that in the latter group of villages the households can afford to maintain a larger family.

4.17 The smaller household size among the female headed households may be explained by lower marital fertility in these households due to widowhood or absence of husband. Greater economic insecurity of these households as shown in a later chapter may also be a factor explaining the family size.

Quantitative Evidence - The Economic Status

4.18 Poor asset base : In rural India, the most important and perhaps the only tangible asset which ultimately determines both economic and social status of a household is the amount of land that the household possesses¹.

4.19 The primary data presented in Table P.7. highlights the concentration of female headed households among the assetless. The proportion of the landless, is much higher among the female headed households than among the male headed ones. Taking all the survey villages together, while 25 per cent of the total number of female headed households possess no land, this proportion is 15 per cent in the case of the male headed households. On an average, 29 per cent of male headed households possess landholding of 2.5 acres and above, whereas only 9 per cent of the female headed households are in this group.

4.20 Available secondary data support this finding. Analysing the results of the Census of 1961, a study shows that among cultivating households, the largest proportion of female headed households possess less than one acre of land². This proportion is 14.5 per cent for all-India and 20 to 20 per cent in a number of States.

4.21 Retabulated data of the NSS 32nd round also show similar result (see Table S.5). Moreover, the incidence of female headedness decreases with increase in the size of holding - shown in graphs AI & AII.

1. Land possessed = land owned + land leased - in - land leased out.

2. Pravin and Leela Visaria, Op. cit.p.

4.22 Low per capita availability of land: The economic deprivation of female headed households is further illustrated by their low per capita availability of land. Table P.8 shows that except in one village, land possessed per capita is uniformly lower among the female headed households.

4.23 A female headed household usually comes into existence with a built-in handicap. After the death of her husband, a woman is often unable to maintain control over her assets - especially land. Two factors usually come into play; the widow is often coerced by her relations to part with at least a portion of the land that should have remained with her and later on she herself may be compelled to sell or mortgage land to cope with emergencies e.g. dowry demands.

4.24 The case histories recorded in Appendix II help in understanding this process of land alienation that typically debilitates the female headed household.

4.25 Levels of living : Economists measure the level of poverty by using different indicators - income, expenditure, assets etc. In this study, per capita expenditure of Rs. 100 per month has been used as the threshold of poverty¹ and a household with lower per capita expenditure is placed below the poverty level.

4.26 It is clear from Table P.9 and Graph B IV (1 & 2) that in the four West Bengal villages and the village of Amarah in Uttar Pradesh, the percentage below the poverty line (as defined in this study) is very high for both sets of households. It is important to note that the proportion of scheduled castes/scheduled tribe population is very high in these villages and a large majority of the female headed households within the poverty level belong to these social groups. In the West Bengal villages for example, 90 per cent of the female headed households belong to scheduled castes or scheduled tribes. Moreover, in most of the surveyed villages, the proportion of female headed households below poverty level is higher than that of the male headed households.

1. See Glossary for details, in Appendix.

4.27 The 45th 32nd round retabulated data for selected districts shows a very large proportion of both sets of households 'below poverty level' (see Table S.7). Yet, significantly, within the poverty group, the female headed households are poorer. Their proportion is uniformly higher in the expenditure category of below Rs. 40 per month.

4.28 Work participation rate : In India, the work participation rate for women is always reported to be significantly lower than for men. 'Work' being defined as participation in gainful activity for the major part of the last 365 days. Time spent in domestic work is cooking, cleaning, child minding, fetching water, fire-wood etc. are considered to be non-work by the statistical system. As a result, the work participation of women, as reported by the macro survey agencies like the Census, is much lower than that of men. In the 1981 Census for example, the participation rate for men and women main-earners¹ in rural areas are 52.2 per cent and 16.5 per cent respectively². If workers but non-main earners are included in the calculation then the percentages are much higher, viz. 54.3 per cent of rural male and 24 per cent of rural female. However, the difference between the work participation of men and women continues to be significant.

4.29 This study, based on data from surveyed villages, finds that the work participation rates for both female and male headed households are considerably higher than the rates given by the Census. Table P.10 shows that on an average 39 per cent of the female heads are main earners. There are considerable regional variations. In Panchakhali village of West Bengal for example, 80 per cent of the female heads are main earners; whereas only 16 per cent are so in Khirakot village in Uttar Pradesh. However, 80 per cent of the male heads of households are main earners.

4.30 It is not inferred that when female heads are not classified as main earners, they do not perform any gainful activity. Some of them are workers though not main earners, and others may contribute to family income as marginal workers, engaged in home-based secondary occupation e.g. rice pounding, basket weaving, tobacco rolling etc.

1. See Glossary for definition.

2. Census of India : Series 1, Part II-special, Report and Tables based on 5 per cent sample data.

4.31 Table P.11 presents work participation rates in male and female headed households. It is important to note that inspite of considerable variations between villages, the work participation in female headed households is higher than that in the male headed households in each site. Moreover, in most sites, the difference between the two is quite pronounced.

4.32 Two explanations may be offered : (a) in most of the villages surveyed, the proportion of young persons aged less than 15 years and especially those who are below 5 is higher in the male headed households (see P.3). Although in rural areas many children in the 5 to 14 age groups may be engaged in actively helping their elders in agricultural work or may be engaged in some gainful activity; such activity is almost nil for children below 5 years. Since the average family size of the male headed households is larger with a higher propotion of non-working children, the work participation rate in these households is naturally lower. (b) It has been noted earlier that the sex ratio in female headed households favour women and the age composition favours adults. These households therefore, tend to have a comlaratively higher proportion of women, who, because of poor asset base of these households are compelled to work. (c) Usually, the average wage of an adult male worker is higher than that of a female worker for broadly similar work. Therefore, in the female headed households with a larger proportion of females, most of the family members must earn, to maintain the family.

4.33 Table P.12 gives gender-specific work participation rates in female and male headed households. Female participation in female headed households in predictably higher, but the interesting feature is that even in the male headed households, the female participation rate is fairly high in most villages. This implies that although in male headed households it is the man who is regarded as the main bread-winnar, yet the women workers make an invisible but important contribution to the family income.

4.34 Activity pattern : Our village survey data, disaggregated by activity pattern shown that most of the female heads of households are either 'self employed in agriculture' or are engaged in regular wage labour (see Table P.13). In Thamasandra, Khirakot and Belma, largest proportion of households pursue self-employment in agriculture. In three other villages, viz. Keralalusandra, Amorah and Panchakhali, the dominant activity of female heads is 'regular hired labour in agriculture'. In Bergram and Gopalnagar, the main activity is casual labour. In the remaining two villages - Ambalpady and Mattu, the distinctive feature is the very high proportion of female heads engaged primarily in housework. This proportion is much lower in the other villages.

4.35 Table P.14 disaggregated the activity status of the members of the two sets of households. Agricultural work, whether as owner cultivation or as hired labour again constitute the dominant activity. While 'self-employment' in agriculture is more important for the female headed households of Thamasandra in Karnataka and Belma in West Bengal; hired employment in agriculture is prominent in the villages of Keralalusandra, Amorah, Belma and Panchakhali. A third set of villages, viz. Ambalpady and Mattu in Karnataka which are comparatively better-off than the West Bengal villages, fewer members are engaged in agricultural or other type of gainful activity.

4.36 It is significant to note that in the female headed households, although over 30 per cent of the household members are adult women in the age group 15-39, yet the proportion of household members engaged predominantly in domestic activity such as cooking, cleaning etc. is quite low. This indicates the phenomenon of 'time squeezing' - if adequate gainful activity is available, the women tend to reduce the time devoted to non-gainful activity. The activity pattern of the male headed households is similar. Here too, agricultural work seems to be the dominant activity.

Qualitative Evidence

437 Decision making : Any attempt to objectively relate decision making to the status of the head of household will be hasty and fraught with difficulties. First, the investigator has to categorise decisions in a meaningful way. Secondly, in many situations a person may be recognised as the household head and yet, decisions on various important issues are taken by other members of the household because the head is too old or not the main earner. Thirdly, the investigator has to abide by the subjective opinion of the household members regarding the locus of decision making. In the literature therefore, there is little discussion on the intra-household allocation of decision making. This study makes a modest beginning in exploring the nature of decision making and attempts to find out whether the association between headship of household and decision making is significantly different between male and female headed households.

4.38 In this study two major areas of decision making have been taken up, viz. decisions on economic issues and decisions on social issues. These two broad areas comprise the following:

Decision on economic issues :-

1. Purchase of food for the household
2. Purchase of clothing for the household
3. Quantity, price and timing of sale of products by the household.
4. Purchase of durable and semi-durable assets
5. Deposition of investment of household savings

Decision on social issues :-

6. Marriage of son or daughter of the household
7. Education of son or daughter or other members of the household

4.39 Data on decision making, presented in Table P.15 highlights the fact that irrespective of the earning status, a very high percentage of heads in almost all the surveyed villages and this includes female heads, take decision on purchase of food and clothing for the household. The only exception is Khirakot, where the female heads of households do not take decision or purchase of clothes. Only 16 per cent of these women heads are main earners, the rest are supported by remittance income.

4.40 As far as decision making on other economic issues are concerned, table P.15 again indicated a fairly close correlation between headship and decision making in both sets of households. Khirakot is again an exception perhaps one explanation lies in the fact that in this village most households are marginal landholders operating on the basis of a subsistence economy with little surplus for sale.

4.41 Regarding decision making on non-economic issues, Karnataka and West Bengal present a contrast. In the Karnataka villages, the female heads appear to be playing a leading role in matrimonial and educational matters of the households; whereas, in the West Bengal villages, these responsibilities are delegated to others.

4.42 The limitations of our sample precludes generalisations regarding decision making by heads of households. However, there is no strong evidence in the primary data to show that female heads function very differently from their male counterparts in the sphere of decision making.

4.43 The quality of life : An important finding of this study is that the poverty indicator in terms of low per capita expenditure and asset base put the female headed households at a disadvantage. Their disadvantaged situation is further aggravated by their low educational attainment which is barrier to the acquisition of knowledge and skills. Table P.16 clearly shows that the proportion of illiterates is much higher among the female heads of households. Moreover, an insignificant proportion of the female heads have had education above primary school level.

Early marriage and high drop out rate among girls who are needed at home to look after younger siblings may contribute to this. As far as access to education is concerned, the female headed households are clearly at a much greater disadvantage compared to the male headed households. The case studies support this finding.

4.44 Double work burden : The female heads of households generally suffer from the physical drudgery of double work burden. Case studies show that apart from working in the fields to enhance the family income, a typical female head of a poor household is also engaged in other physically taxing activities outside home such as cutting grass for fodder and fetching water and fire-wood from great distances. All this, together with the normal duties of a woman, such as cooking, cleaning, child bearing and rearing make the life of woman head of household extremely burdensome. This double work burden is particularly evident in a village like Khirakot where there is a long tradition of male out migration and full responsibility of work, both outside and inside the home falls on the women.

4.45 Access to development programmes: In India certain State sponsored development programmes are in operation. These programmes aim at helping the weaker sections of the rural population, by providing them with employment, housing, loans etc. It is important to find out whether these schemes have had a significant impact on the rural households.

4.46 Primary data show that in the Karnataka villages the female headed households are aware of the Integrated Rural Development Programme and the Janata Housing Schemes and some of them have benefited from these programmes (see Chart 1). However, in the West Bengal villages most of the female headed households do not have access to such schemes.

4.47 There are certain sericulture promotion schemes in Bangalore district. However, the impact on women's employment has been negligible although women in these areas of Karnataka

have a long tradition of participating in sericulture production and are particularly suited for this work. Table P17 shows that in Thamasandra and Keralalusandra, although a slightly higher percentage of female headed households are engaged in this work yet the number of men employed, both in male headed and female headed households, is higher than the number of women - indicating unequal access of men and women to such schemes.

4.48 Access to drinking water : The quality of life experienced by members of a household is undoubtedly affected by the time and effort required to obtain a basic resource, such as water. Table P.18 shows that in the West Bengal villages, very few female headed households have their own exclusive sources of water supply and the majority of them have to depend on common facilities, which may be available only outside the village. This situation is a little better in the case of the male headed households.

4.49 The female-headed households of Ambalpady and Mattu are much better-off than those of the eastern villages, as far as this particular facility is concerned. In the Uttar Pradesh village of Amorah, where in terms of other indicators the quality of life is poor, access to drinking water appears to be much better. Over 50 per cent of the female headed households have drinking water source for their exclusive use.

4.50 The primary data clearly indicate that the female headed households experience a poor quality of life. It is not implied that the male headed households enjoy a particularly good quality of life, however, within the all pervasive condition of poverty, the female headed households are at a greater disadvantage in terms of education, access to development schemes and double work burden.

4.51 Thus, in a comparative analysis, the male headed households seem to enjoy a marginal advantage as far as their economic condition is concerned. This advantage would often stem from the differential pattern of landholding in the two sets

of households as discussed earlier. In some cases it may also be linked to the male-female wage differentials that prevail in most areas¹.

4.52 Given the limitations imposed by the sample size of the primary survey, the data generated can only yield a tentative hypothesis that female headed households are economically at a greater disadvantage as compared to their male headed counterparts in terms of asset base and poverty level.

1. Sudhir Bhattacharyya : "Women's Activity in Rural India", Sarvekshana, Vol.IV, Nos. 3 & 4, Jan.-April, 1981, P.8.

Conclusion and Policy Implication

- 5.1 The evidence presented here from the villages surveyed clearly indicate that both in terms of demographic and economic criteria, the female headed households present certain special features.
- 5.2 An overwhelming majority of the female heads of households are elderly widows, whereas most of their male counterparts are younger and are currently married. The female headed households are smaller in size with a larger proportion of adult females and a smaller proportion of children.
- 5.3 The female households are at a greater economic disadvantage than the male headed households. Their asset base in terms of landholding is smaller - they are more marginalised than the male headed households. In a general scenario of poverty, the female headed households frequent the lower end of the poverty scale inspite of their higher work participation rate. A strong association between poverty and female headed households is therefore well established.
- 5.4 Not only are these households seeped in poverty, most of the development programmes do not reach them. Among the female headed households, especially in the villages of eastern India, both awareness of and participation in development schemes, is insignificant. Even in the villages of Karnataka, where such awareness is greater, most of the beneficiaries of these schemes are men.
- 5.5 Qualitative evidence and case studies point to the poor quality of life experienced by the heads of these households. Literacy, and the level of general education is lower among them, making it more difficult for them to acquire skill and take advantage of improved technology. Double work burden of arduous physical work, not only to enhance family income,

but also in other household supporting activities like fetching water and firewood, combined with the traditional domestic duties of women, make life a drudgery for them.

5.6 Therefore, the typical female headed household in these villages, is one with a large number of adult females, headed by an elderly widow, eking out an existence well below the poverty line with little or no asset and beyond the reach of the official development programme.

Policy Implications

5.7 Certain policy implications arise from this study. In India, two major macro level organisations which collect household data, are the Census and the National Sample Survey Organisation. A few observations regarding the data generated by them may be mentioned.

5.8 Household data collected by the Census are published after a long time - lag, making the task of the data users harder. Moreover, the disaggregation of the household data is different censuses, thereby making trend analysis difficult.

5.9 The National Sample Survey, should attempt to capture the incidence and characteristics of the female headed households by redesigning their sampling method, so that female headed households get adequate representation in its sample.

5.10 In the tabulation programme of the Census and the National Sample Survey, certain key features of the households disaggregated by the sex of the head of household, should be tabulated and published, so that the female headed households get adequate attention in policy planning.

5.11 Although the overall incidence of female headed households is low in India, yet there are pockets where their

occurrence is higher than the national average. From the evidence of this study, these households display certain special features. Therefore, accurate identification of these households is necessary. Moreover, development schemes which cater to their needs should be formulated and existing schemes must be made accessible to them.

5.12 Since macro surveys are unable to capture many of the socio-economic features of these household, more micro studies are needed, so that areas and groups with relatively higher occurrence of female headed households and their specific needs come into focus.

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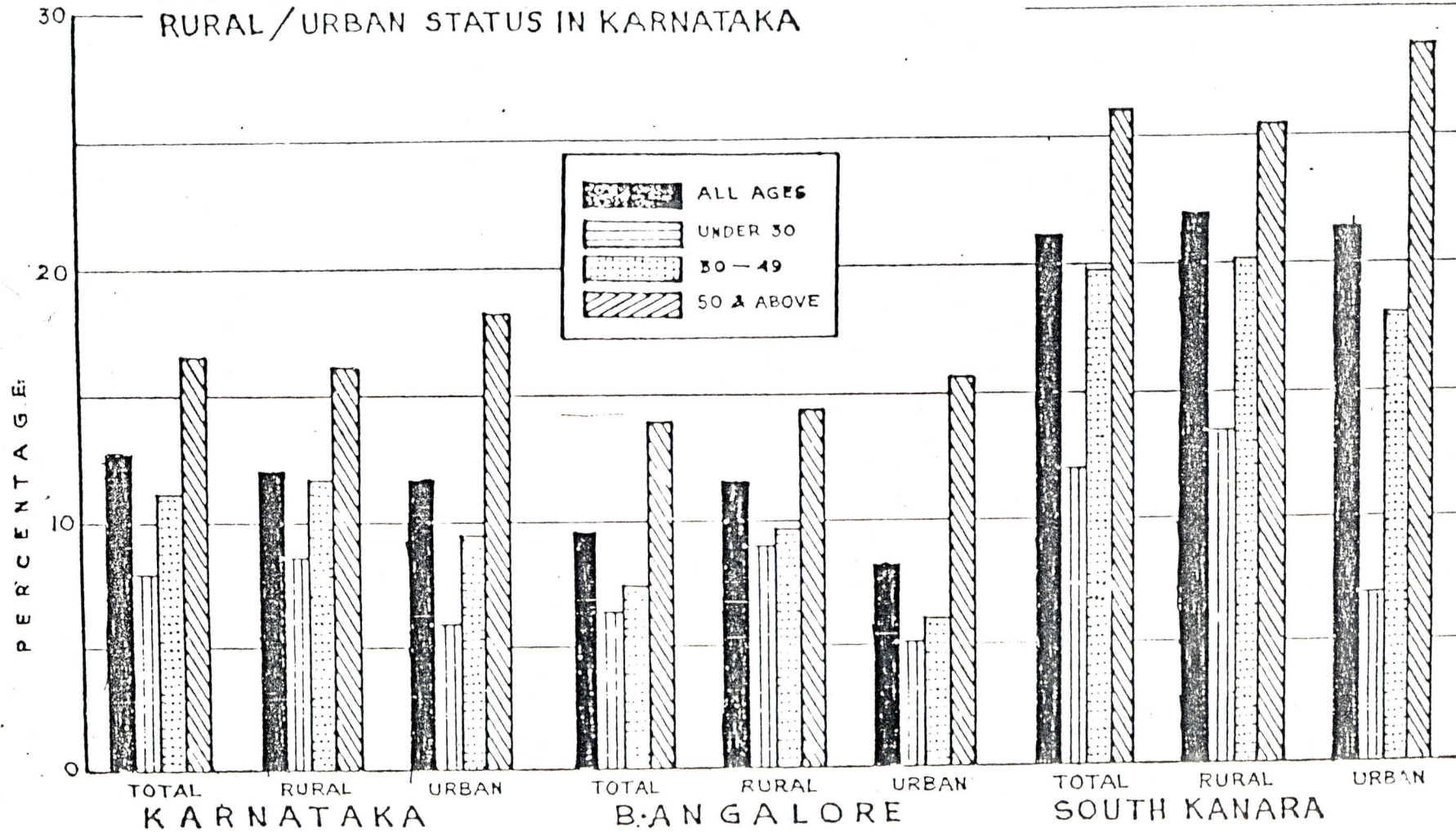
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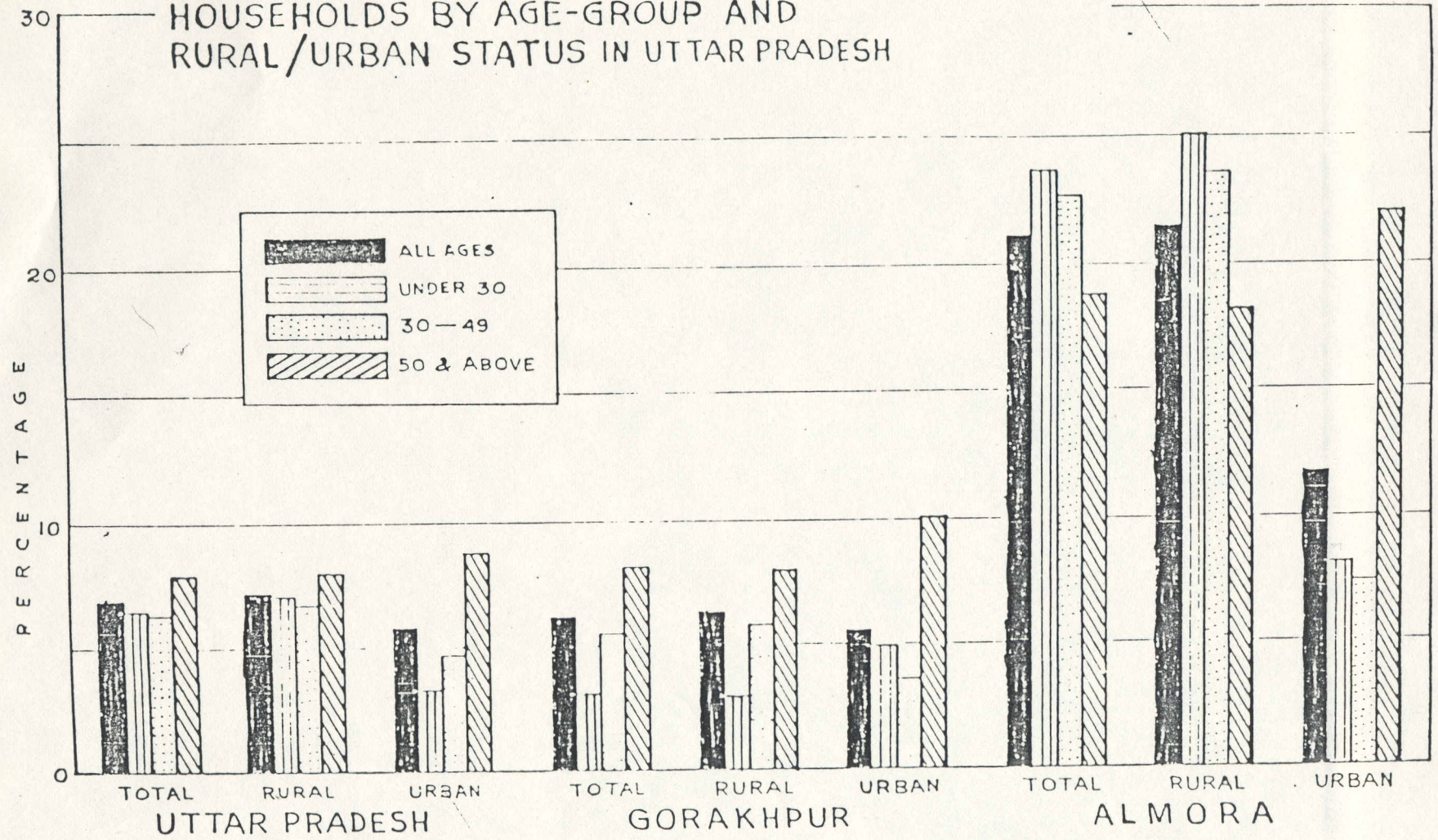
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- Note
1. Percentages may not add up to hundred because of rounding-off.
 2. In the tables wherever there is a dash, it denotes nil.

GRAPH A I (1)

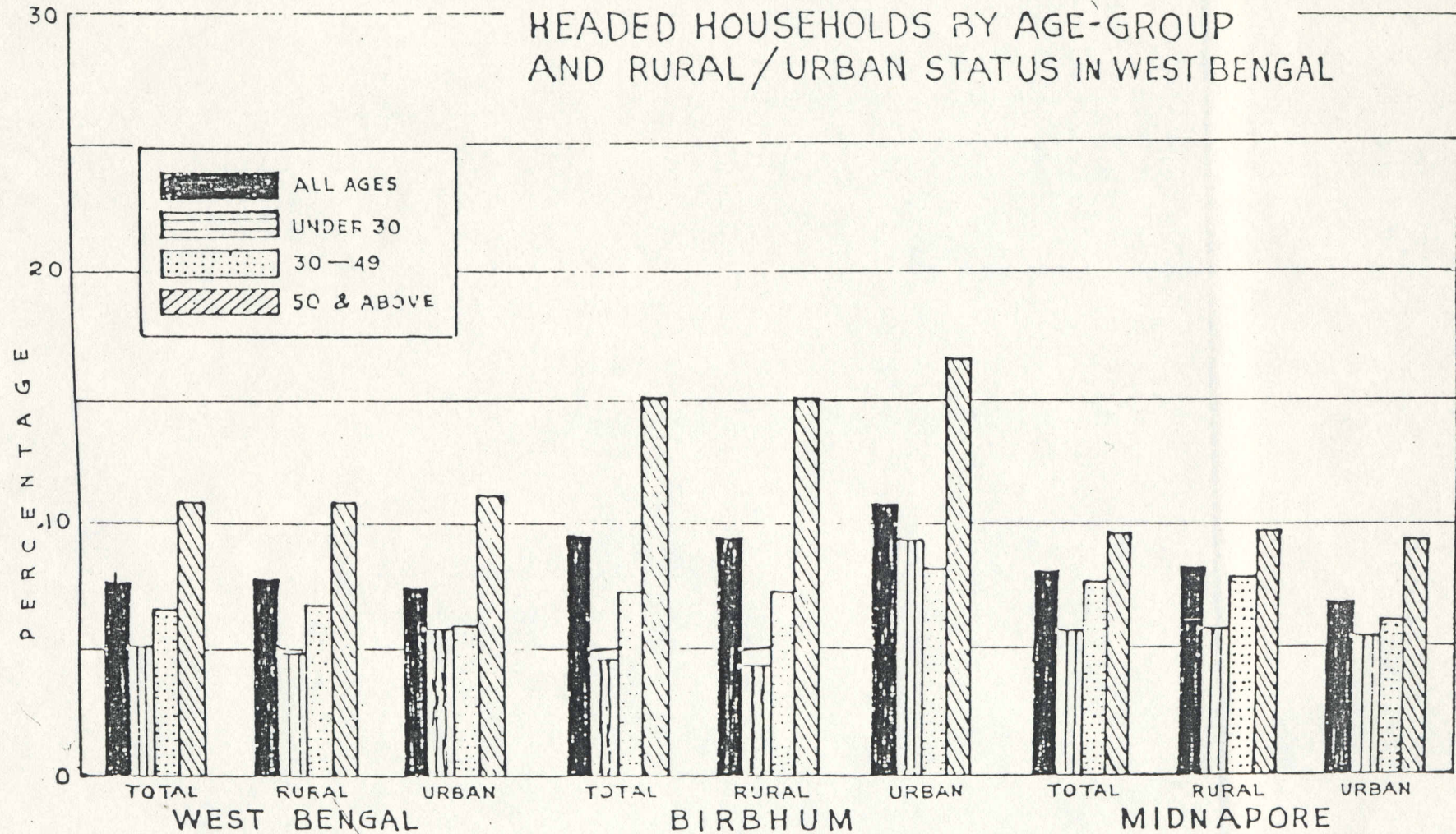
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE-GROUP AND RURAL/URBAN STATUS IN KARNATAKA



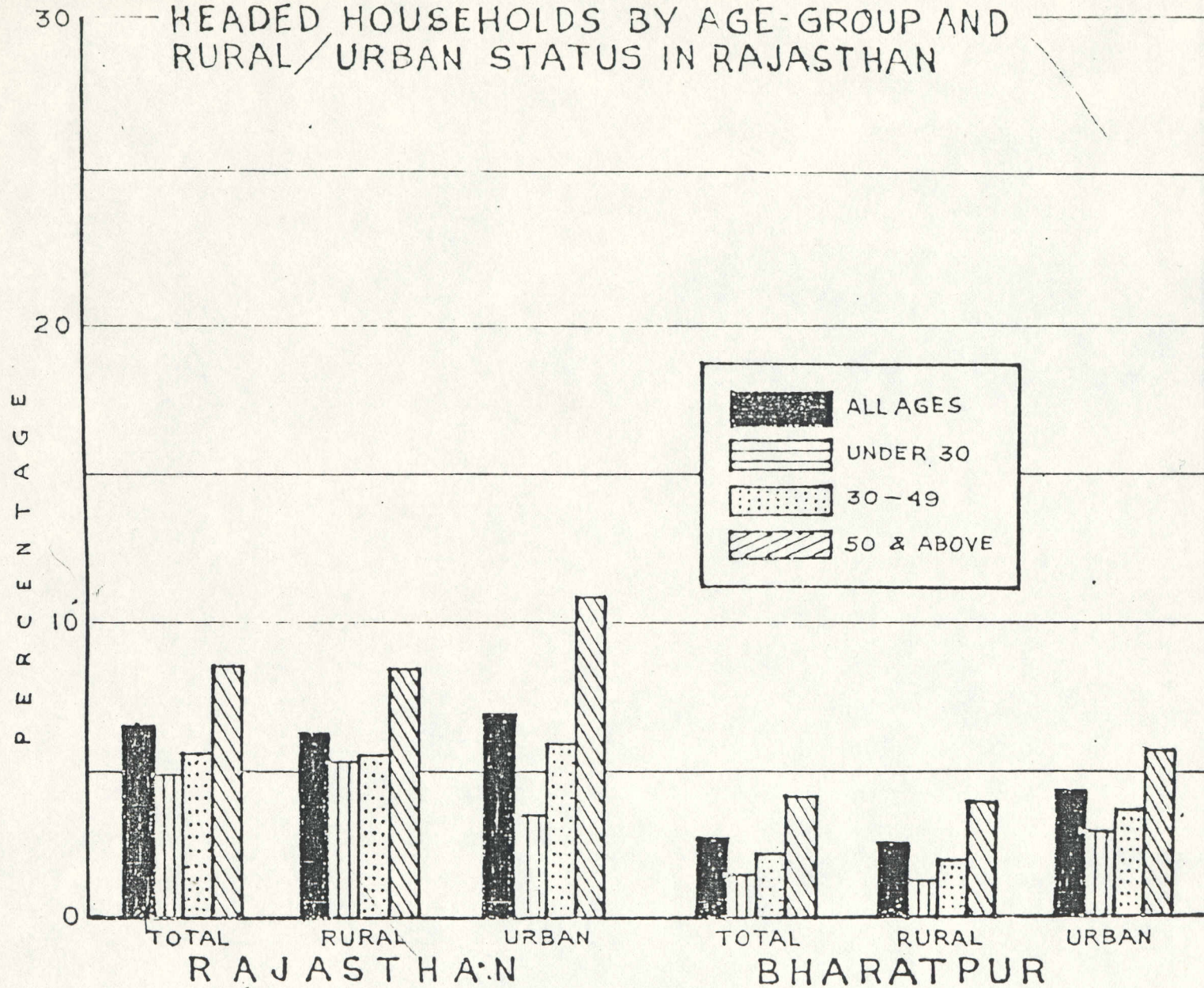
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE-GROUP AND RURAL/URBAN STATUS IN UTTAR PRADESH



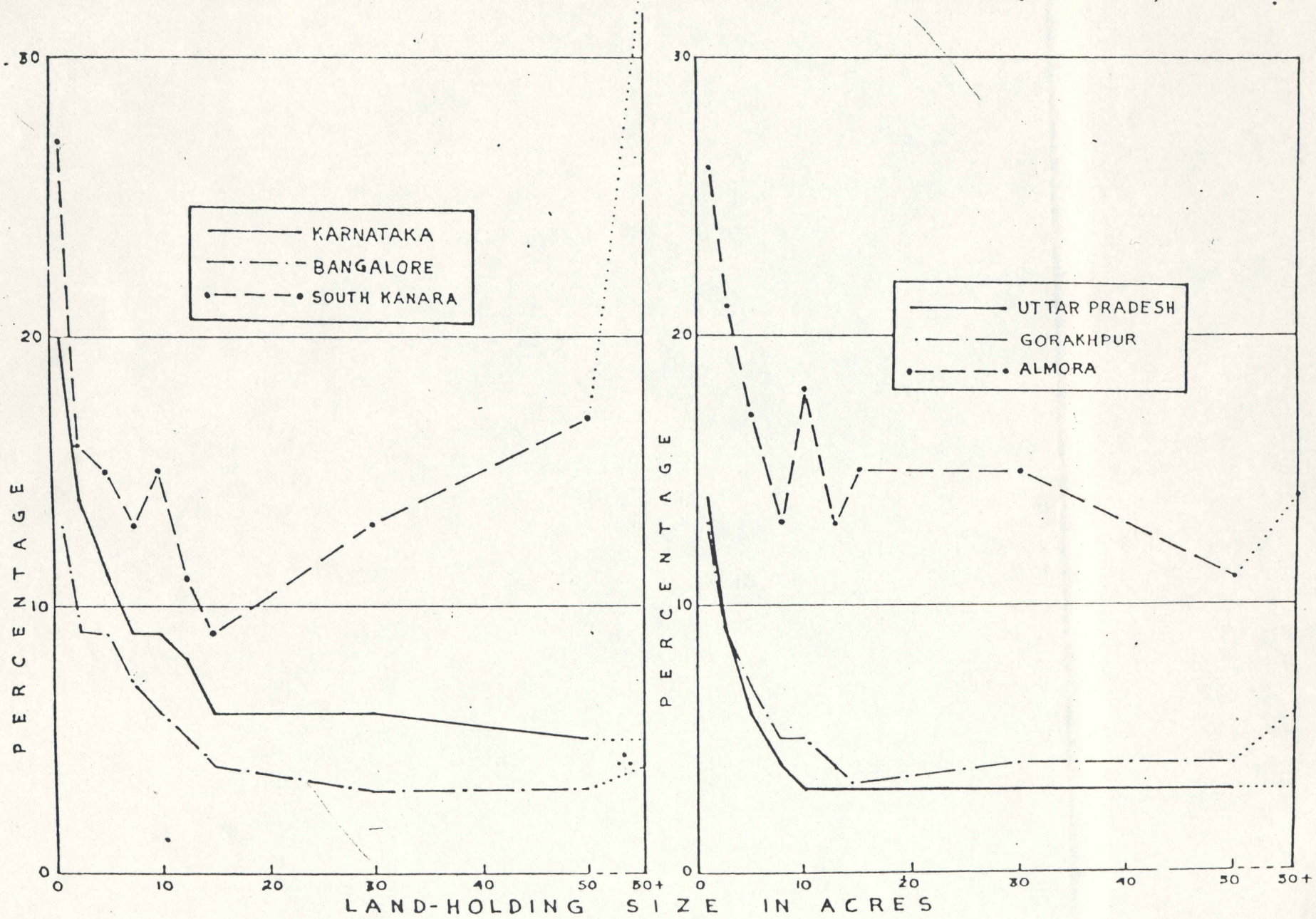
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE-GROUP AND RURAL/URBAN STATUS IN WEST BENGAL



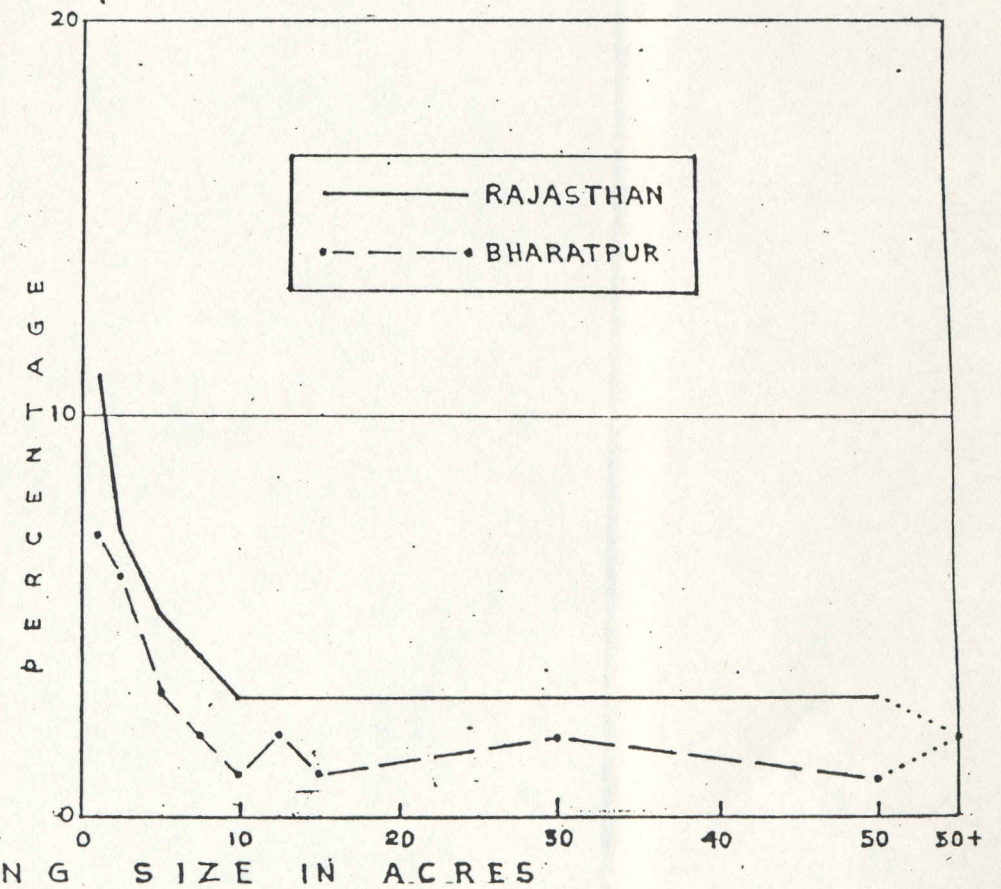
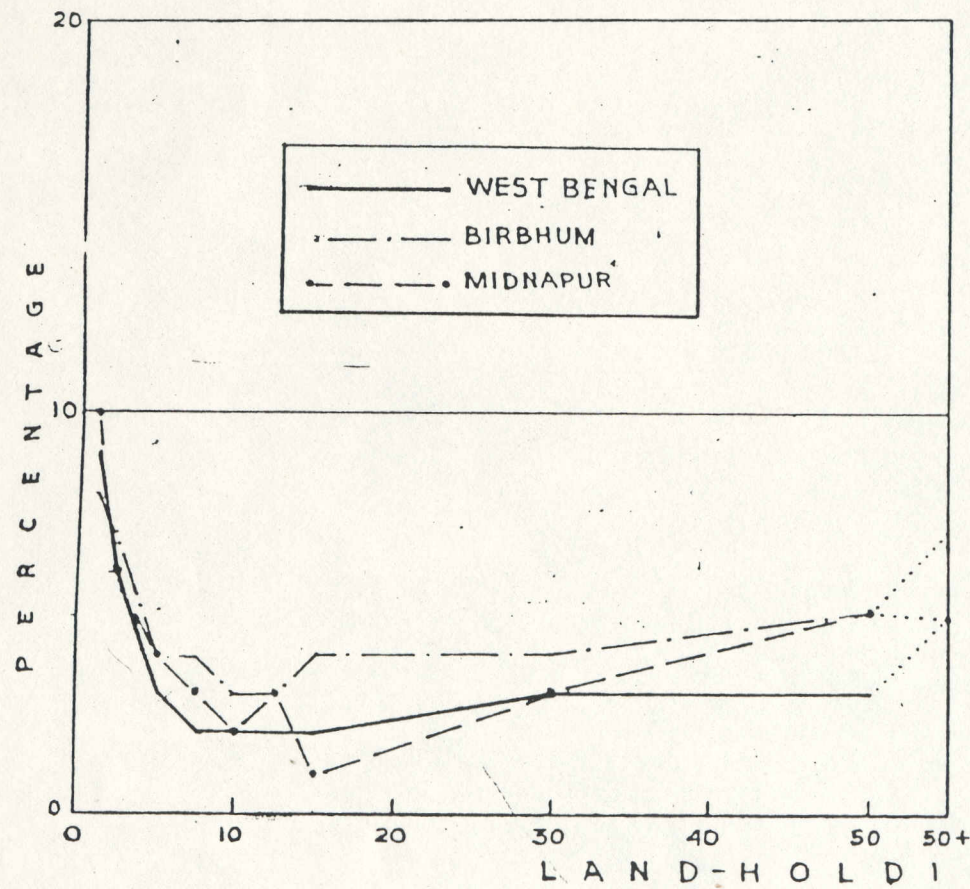
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE-GROUP AND RURAL/URBAN STATUS IN RAJASTHAN



PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS TO TOTAL SAMPLE CULTIVATOR HOUSEHOLDS DISTRIBUTED BY LANDHOLDING SIZE CLASSES (CENSUS, 1961)

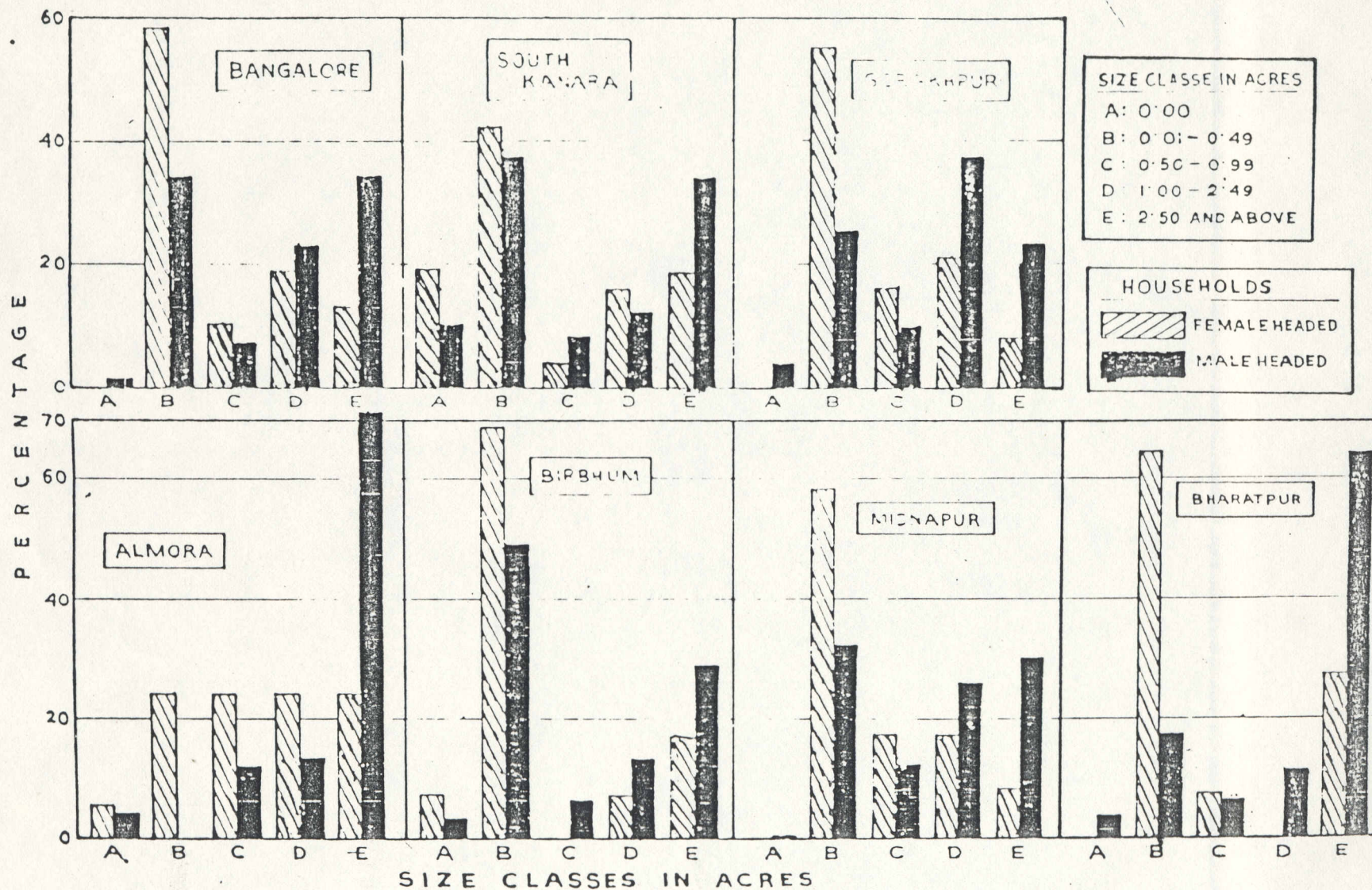


PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS TO TOTAL SAMPLE CULTIVATOR HOUSEHOLDS DISTRIBUTED BY LANDHOLDING SIZE CLASSES (CENSUS, 1961)



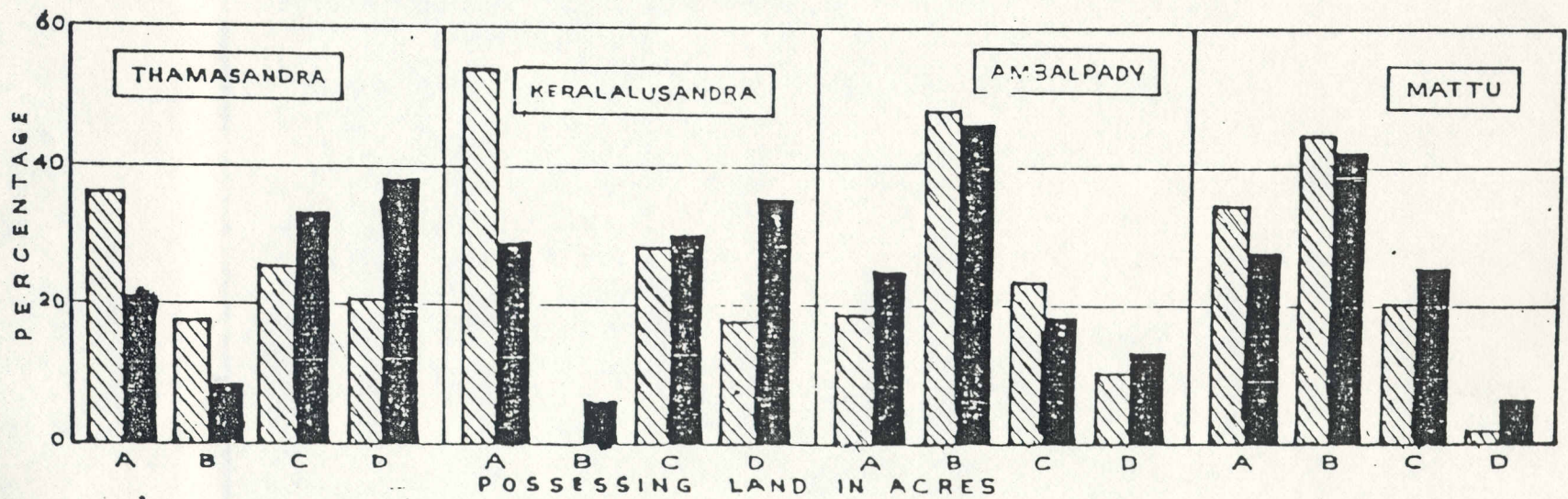
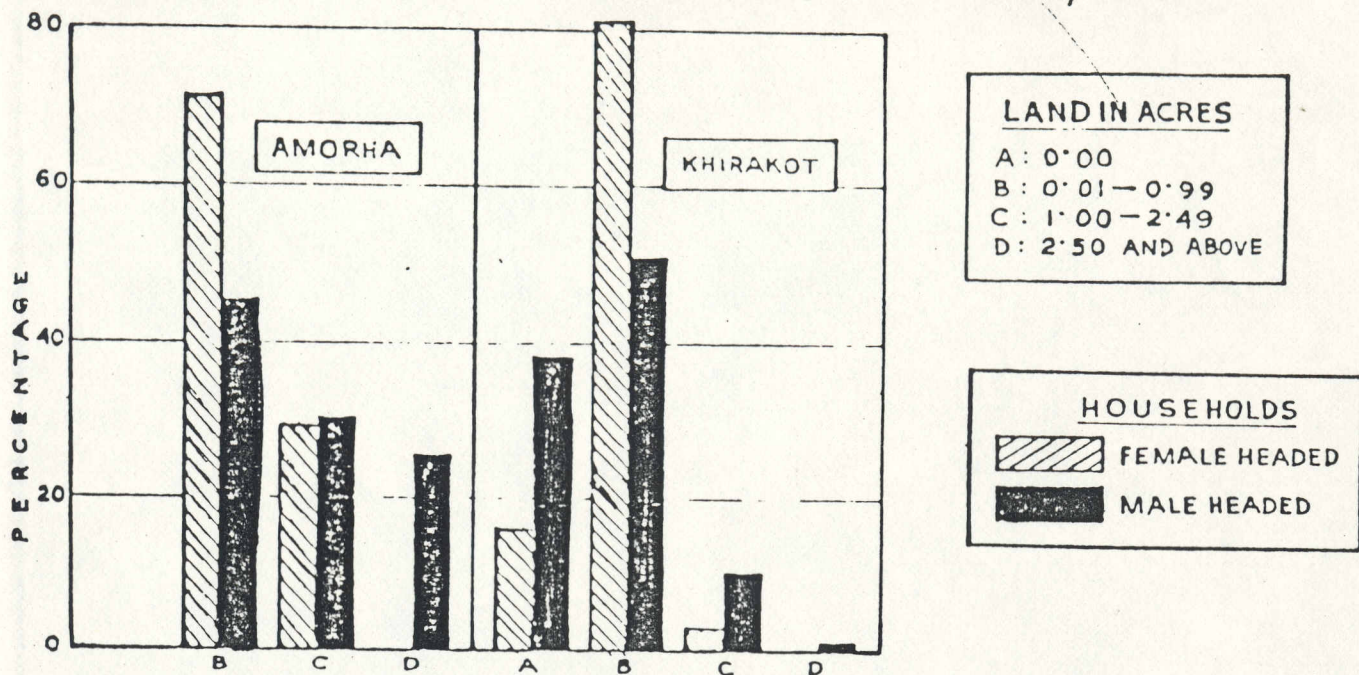
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS (IN SOME DISTRICTS) BY LAND POSSESSED CLASSES

(RETABULATED DATA OF NSS 32nd ROUND)





RURAL HOUSEHOLDS DISTRIBUTED BY SIZE OF LAND-HOLDINGS (ACRES) AND SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (PRIMARY DATA)

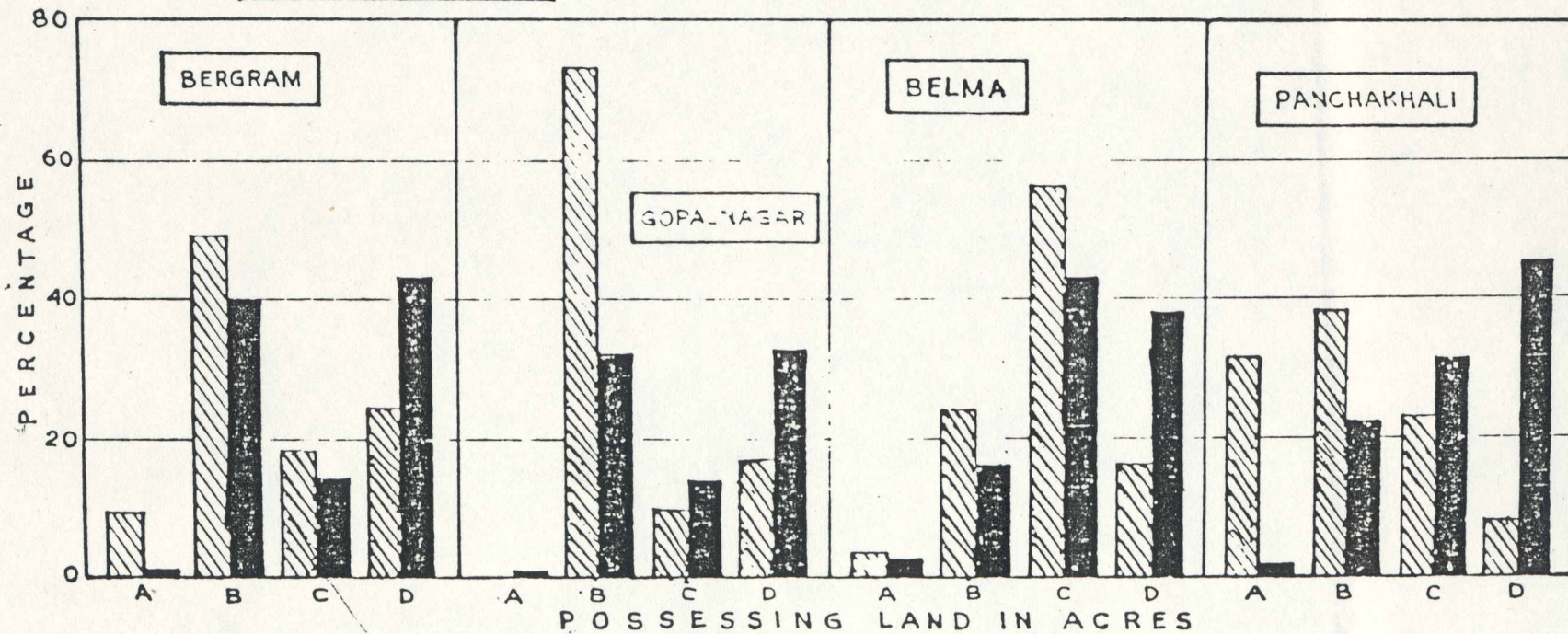
GRAPH BII (I)



RURAL HOUSEHOLDS DISTRIBUTED BY SIZE OF LAND-HOLDINGS (ACRES)
AND SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (PRIMARY DATA)

LAND IN ACRES
A : 0.00
B : 0.01 0.99
C : 1.00 2.49
D : 2.50 AND ABOVE

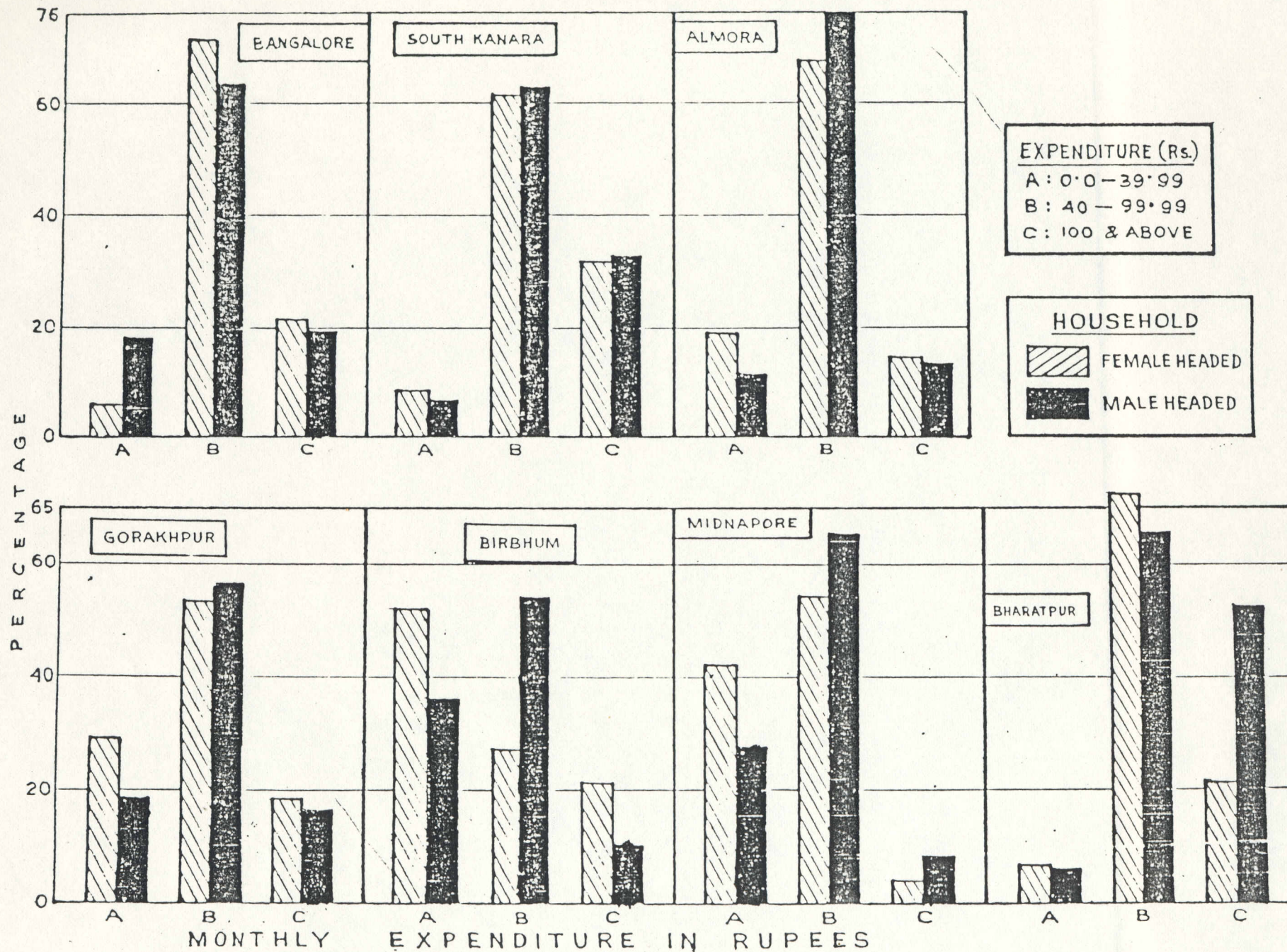
HOUSEHOLDS
 FEMALE HEADED
 MALE HEADED



PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

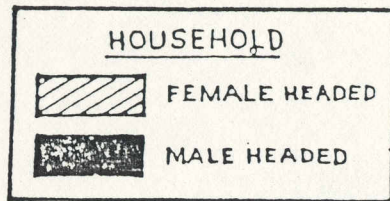
GRAPH BIII

(RETABULATED DATA OF NSS 82nd ROUND)



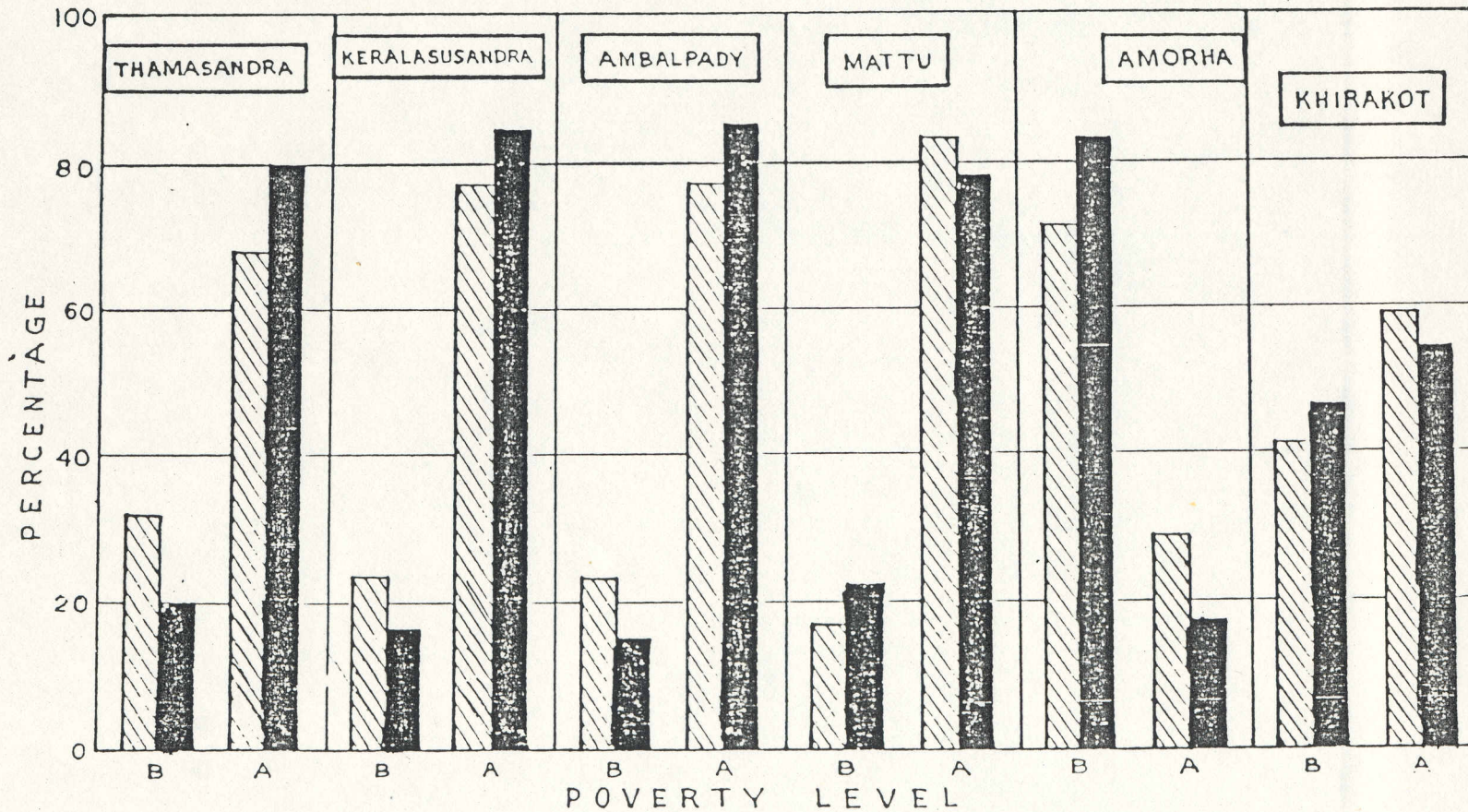
PER CAPITA MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF MALE AND FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

(PRIMARY DATA)



POVERTY LEVEL = PER CAPITA
MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF Rs.100

B : BELOW POVERTY LEVEL
A : ABOVE POVERTY LEVEL



PER CAPITA MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF MALE AND FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

(PRIMARY DATA)

POVERTY LEVEL = PER CAPITA MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF Rs 100

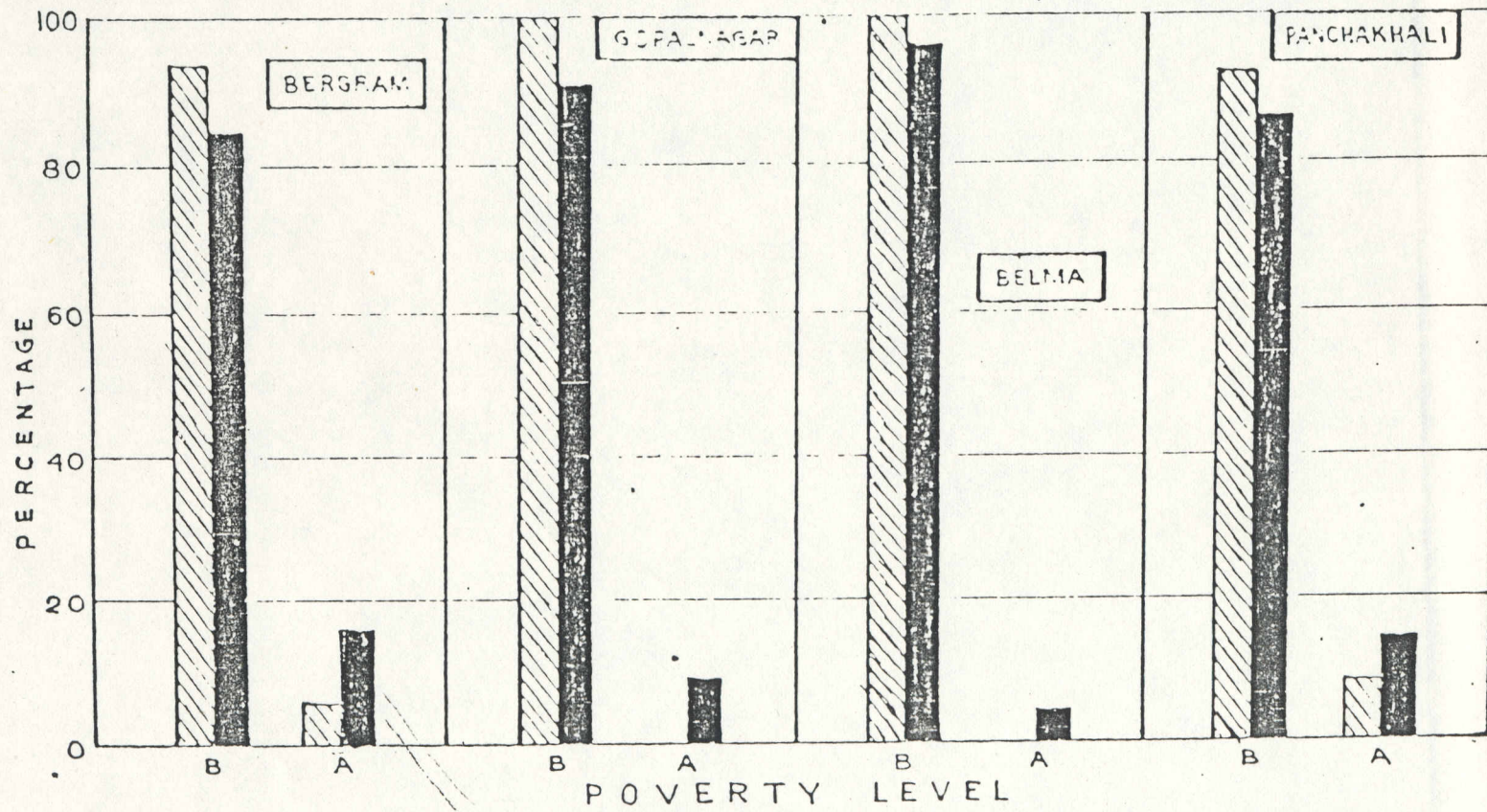
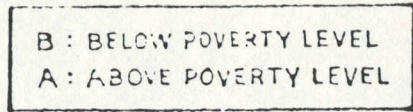
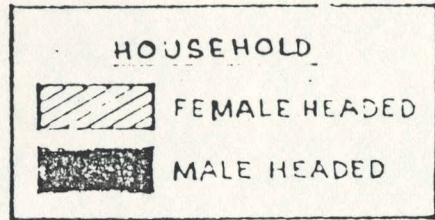


TABLE S.1 : PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS (FHH) TO TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS AS INDICATED BY CENSUS OF 1971, NSS 32ND ROUND AND ISST HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Districts	1971 Census	NSS 32ND ROUND (1977-78)	ISST Household Survey	
			Villages	Percentage of FHH to total households
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Bangalore	9.6	10.8	Thamasandra Keralalusandra	17.6 14.7
South Kanara	21.2	22.3	Ambalpady Mattu	25.2 33.9
Gorakhpur	6.2	8.9	Amorah	13.9
Almora	21.2	21.8	Khirakot	41.1
Birbhum	8.0	8.6	Bergram Gopalnagar	17.1 16.3
Midnapore	9.6	6.9	Belma Panchakhali	18.8 12.4
Bharatpur	2.7	6.2	Mehtoli Etrampura	2.3 1.7

Note : Since the methodology of survey especially the sampling techniques used by the Census, the NSSO and the ISST primary household survey and the survey coverage are different, the findings of these three sources are not strictly comparable.

TABLE S.2 : PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS
DISTRIBUTED BY AGE GROUP : CENSUS 1971

Rural/Urban/Total	Age-groups	State	Districts		State	Districts	
		Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur	Almora	West Bengal	Birbhum	Midnapore
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Total	all ages	6.98	6.2	21.1	7.68	9.48	8.04
	under 30	6.48	3.06	23.7	5.03	4.67	5.76
	30-49	6.29	5.57	22.7	6.47	7.29	7.57
	50 +	8.04	8.16	18.7	10.84	15.05	9.63
Rural	all ages	7.2	6.27	21.6	7.76	9.38	8.14
	under 30	7.13	2.88	25.2	4.8	4.33	5.79
	30-49	6.6	5.78	23.7	6.7	7.24	7.73
	50 +	7.95	8.04	18.2	10.74	14.95	9.66
Urban	all ages	5.66	5.57	11.8	7.4	10.67	6.8
	under 30	3.2	4.94	8.2	5.78	9.16	5.4
	30-49	4.47	3.6	7.4	5.87	7.96	6.03
	50 +	8.67	10.12	22.0	11.12	16.48	9.19

TABLE S.2 : CONTD.

1971 CENSUS

Rural/Urban/Total	Age-group	State	Districts		State	District
		Karnataka	Bangalore	S.Kanara	Rajasthan	Bharatpur
(1)	(2)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Total	all ages	12.8	9.6	21.1	6.5	2.7
	under 30	7.9	6.3	11.9	4.9	1.4
	30-49	11.1	7.5	19.7	5.5	2.1
	50 +	16.5	13.9	26.1	8.6	4.1
Rural	all ages	13.13	11.5	22.0	6.3	2.5
	under 30	8.6	8.9	13.38	5.3	1.1
	30-49	11.7	9.7	20.2	5.5	1.8
	50 +	16.1	14.3	25.5	7.9	3.9
Urban	all ages	11.8	8.0	21.4	7.0	4.3
	under 30	6.4	5.0	6.9	3.4	2.9
	30-49	9.4	6.0	18.0	5.9	3.8
	50 +	18.2	13.5	28.6	10.9	5.7

Source : Government of India, 1971 Census : Social and Cultural Tables :

Series 14, Part II C(ii), C-I Part A, pp.2,14
 Series 18, Part II C(ii), C-I Part A, p. 6
 Series 21, Part II C(ii), C-I Part A, pp.6,26
 Series 22, Part II C (i), C-I Part A, pp.40,44

TABLE S.4 : AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE INCLUDING AND EXCLUDING SINGLE MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS
IN SELECTED DISTRICTS SEPARATELY FOR MALE AND FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

Districts	Female Headed Households					Male Headed Households				
	Number of households	Single membered households	Average household size	Household size excluding single member households	Total persons	Number of households	Single membered households	Average household size	Household size excluding single member households	Total persons
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Bangalore	31	10	3	3	77	257	8	5	5	1270
South Kanara	75	5	5	5	366	261	5	6	6	1499
44 Gorakhpur	38	14	3	3	103	398	25	5	5	1918
Almora	21	6	4	5	74	75	3	5	5	388
Birbhum	29	7	3	3	80	307	11	5	5	1509
Midnapore	72	16	3	4	232	972	18	5	5	5203
Bharatpur	14	6	2	4	34	226	14	5	6	1196

Source : NSS 32nd Round Survey (1977-78)

TABLE S.5 : DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE CLASS OF LAND POSSESSED (IN ACRES)

District	Female Headed Households						Male Headed Households					
	size classes (in acres)						size classes (in acres)					
	0.00	.01-.49	.5-.99	1 - 2.49	2.5 and above	Total house-holds	0.00	.01-.49	.5-.99	1- 2.49	2.5 and above	Total house-holds
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Bangalore	-	18 (58.1)	3 (9.7)	6 (19.4)	4 (12.9)	31	3 (1.2)	87 (33.9)	18 (7.0)	61 (23.7)	88 (34.2)	257
South Kanara	14 (18.9)	31 (41.9)	3 (4.1)	12 (16.2)	14 (18.9)	74+1*	25 (10.0)	92 (36.7)	21 (8.4)	29 (11.6)	84 (33.5)	251
Gorakhpur	-	21 (55.3)	6 (15.8)	8 (21.1)	3 (7.9)	38	15 (3.8)	100 (25.2)	45 (10.3)	146 (36.8)	91 (22.9)	397
Almora	1 (4.8)	5 (23.8)	5 (23.8)	5 (23.8)	5 (23.8)	21	3 (4.0)	-	9 (12.0)	10 (13.3)	53 (70.7)	75
Birbhum	2 (6.9)	20 (6.9)	-	2 (6.9)	5 (17.2)	29	9 (2.9)	151 (49.2)	18 (5.9)	41 (13.4)	88 (28.7)	307
Midnapore	-	42 (58.3)	12 (16.7)	12 (16.7)	6 (8.3)	72	1 (0.1)	306 (31.5)	119 (12.3)	251 (25.8)	295 (30.3)	972
Bharatpur	-	9 (64.3)	1 (7.1)	-	4 (28.6)	14	6 (2.8)	37 (17.1)	12 (5.6)	23 (10.6)	138 (63.9)	216

* Note : 1. one female headed household was not recorded in South Kanara
2. figures in parenthesis denote percentages

Source : Retabulated Data, NSS : 32nd Round

Activity Status

Districts	house- hold type	Bon- ded la- bour	Self emplo- yed	Hel- per	Regular salaried/ wage emplo- yed	Casual wage labour	Seeking/ availa- ble for work	Atten- ding educa- tional insti- tutions	Atten- ding domes- tic duties only	Atten- ding other spl. acti- vities	others	total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Bangalore	FHH	-	11 (35.5)	-	-	13 (41.9)	-	-	2 (6.4)	2 (6.4)	3 (9.7)	31
	MHH	-	116 (45.1)	-	26 (10.1)	94 (36.6)	-	-	-	-	21 (8.2)	257
South Kanara	FHH	-	16 (21.3)	-	2 (2.7)	26 (34.7)	9 (1.3)	-	9 (12.0)	10 (13.3)	11 (14.7)	75
	MHH	-	122 (46.7)	-	20 (7.7)	91 (34.9)	2 (0.8)	-	1 (0.4)	-	25 (9.5)	261
Bharatpur	FHH	-	3 (21.4)	-	-	3 (21.5)	-	-	1 (9.1)	5 (35.7)	2 (14.3)	14
	MHH	-	164 (72.6)	-	20 (8.8)	31 (13.7)	-	-	-	-	11 (4.9)	226
Almora	FHH	-	16 (76.2)	-	1 (4.8)	-	-	-	-	2 (9.5)	2 (9.5)	21
	MHH	-	52 (69.3)	-	7 (9.4)	7 (9.3)	-	1 (1.3)	-	1 (1.3)	7 (9.4)	75
Gorakhpur	FHH	-	14 (36.8)	-	-	5 (13.2)	-	-	6 (15.8)	5 (13.2)	8 (21.0)	38
	MHH	5 (1.3)	226 (57.4)	-	26 (6.6)	111 (28.2)	-	12 (3.0)	-	1 (0.2)	13 (3.3)	394
Birbhum	FHH	-	6 (20.7)	-	5 (17.2)	5 (17.2)	-	-	4 (13.8)	-	9 (31.1)	29
	MHH	-	139 (45.3)	-	33 (10.8)	114 (37.1)	2 (0.6)	3 (1.0)	-	1 (0.3)	15 (4.9)	307
Midnapore	FHH	-	25 (34.8)	-	8 (11.1)	12 (16.7)	-	-	6 (8.3)	17 (23.6)	4 (5.5)	72
	MHH	-	517 (53.2)	-	84 (8.6)	324 (33.3)	-	1 (6.1)	1 (0.2)	-	45 (4.6)	972

Note : Figures in parentheses are percentages

TABLE S.7 : PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS BY POVERTY LEVEL (POVERTY LEVEL = PER CAPITA MONTHLY EXPENDITURE Rs. 100)

Districts	Below Poverty Level			Above Poverty Level		
	Female HH	Male HH	Total HH	Female HH	Male HH	Total HH
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Bangalore	22 (78.8)	208 (80.9)	230	6 (21.4)	49 (19.1)	55
South Kanara	52 (69.3)	177 (67.8)	229	23 (30.7)	82 (31.7)	105*
Gorakhpur	31 (81.6)	333 (83.7)	364	7 (18.4)	65 (16.3)	72
Almora	18 (85.7)	65 (86.7)	83	3 (14.3)	10 (13.3)	13
Birbhum	23 (79.3)	283 (89.8)	306	6 (20.7)	32 (10.2)	38
Midnapore	69 (95.8)	899 (92.5)	968	3 (4.2)	73 (7.5)	76
Bharatpur	11 (78.5)	161 (71.2)	14	3 (21.4)	118 (52.2)	226

Note : Figures within parentheses are percentages

* Information about 2 MHH's of S. Kanara were not recorded

Source : NSS, 32nd Round (1977-78)

TABLE S.8 : DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS BY
MONTHLY PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE (Rs.)

Districts	type of households	per capita expenditure (Rs.0.00)			Total households
		0-39.99	40-99.99	100 & above	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Bangalore	FHH	2 (6.4)	20 (71.4)	6 (21.4)	28
	MHH	45 (17.5)	163 (63.4)	49 (19.1)	257
South Kanara	FHH	6 (8.0)	46 (61.3)	23 (30.7)	75
	MHH	15 (5.8)	162 (62.5)	82 (31.7)	259*
Bharatpur	FHH	1 (7.1)	10 (71.4)	3 (21.4)	14
	MHH	14 (6.2)	147 (65.0)	118 (52.2)	226
Almora	FHH	4 (19.0)	14 (66.7)	3 (14.3)	21
	MHH	8 (10.6)	57 (76.0)	10 (13.3)	75
Gorakhpur	FHH	11 (28.9)	20 (52.6)	7 (18.4)	38
	MHH	71 (17.8)	262 (65.8)	65 (16.3)	398
Birbhum	FHH	15 (51.7)	8 (27.6)	6 (20.7)	29
	MHH	114 (37.1)	169 (55.0)	32 (10.4)	307
Midnapore	FHH	30 (41.7)	39 (54.2)	3 (4.2)	72
	MHH	266 (27.4)	633 (65.1)	73 (7.5)	972

* Information about 2 MHH's of South Kanara Dist. were not recorded

FHH : Female Headed households, MHH : Male Headed households

Source : NSS 32nd Round retabulated

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages

TABLE P.1 : PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS BY AGE-GROUPS

State/Village	Age-groups of Female Heads of Households				Age-groups of Male Heads of Households			
	15-44	45-59	60 and above	Total	15-44	45-59	60 and above	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
<u>Karnataka</u>								
Thamasandra	39	39	22	100	55	40	-	95
Keralalusandra	33	36	31	100	56	26	18	100
Ambalapady	19	48	33	100	37	35	28	100
Mattu	22	55	23	100	32	41	27	100
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>								
Amorah	57	24	19	100	61	31	8	100
Khirakot	62	21	17	100	43	32	25	100
<u>West Bengal</u>								
Bergram	42	46	12	100	60	30	10	100
Copalnagar	43	40	17	100	59	33	8	100
Belma	32	52	16	100	60	29	11	100
Panchakhali	31	35	34	100	58	24	18	100

* 5 per cent covers unreported cases

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.2 : DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS BY AGE AND SEX IN FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

State/Village	Female Headed Households												Male Headed Households												
	0-14			15-59			60 & above			To- tal Male	To- tal Fe- male	Gr- and To- tal	0-14			15-59			60 & above			To- tal Male	To- tal Fe- male	Gr- and To- tal	
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)							
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T				M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T				
<u>Karnataka</u>																									
Thamasandra	21	10	31	31	29	60	6	6	12	58	45	103	29	19	48	32	24	56	2	5	7	63	48	111	
Keralalusandra	16	13	29	33	32	65	3	8	11	52	53	105	16	24	40	29	19	48	-	2	2	45	45	90	
Ambalpady	40	39	79	49	92	141	7	16	23	96	147	243	36	39	75	76	72	148	13	5	18	125	116	241	
Mattu	38	34	72	45	103	148	4	11	15	87	148	235	52	46	98	69	110	179	16	11	27	137	167	304	
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>																									
Amorah	14	20	34	16	30	46	2	4	6	32	54	86	20	25	45	24	30	54	4	1	5	48	56	104	
Khirakot	40	32	72	35	62	97	2	7	9	77	101	184	31	29	60	78	72	150	13	6	19	122	107	229	
<u>West Bengal</u>																									
Bergram	25	24	49	42	56	98	5	4	9	72	84	156	3	4	7	12	13	25	1	1	2	16	18	34	
Gopalnagar	14	10	24	35	48	83	1	8	9	50	66	116	26	33	59	47	45	92	4	1	5	77	79	156	
Belma	13	9	22	22	38	60	-	4	4	35	51	86	31	30	61	42	42	84	4	1	5	77	73	150	
Panchakhali	9	10	19	7	25	32	-	9	9	16	44	60	32	36	68	48	44	92	3	2	5	83	82	165	

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.3 : PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN BELOW 5 YEARS OF AGE TO TOTAL POPULATION IN FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

State/ Village	Female headed household		Male headed household	
	p.c. to total	number	p.c. to total	number
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>Karnataka</u>				
Thamasandra	6.8	7	11.1	11
Keralalusandra	5.7	6	18.9	19
Ambalpady	7.8	8	7.1	7
Mattu	3.0	3	7.9	8
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>				
Amorah	8.1	8	14.4	14
Khirakot	8.3	8	8.6	9
<u>West Bengal</u>				
Bergram	6.4	6	13.7	14
Gopalnagar	1.7	2	17.3	17
Belma	4.7	5	10.7	11
Panchakhali	3.3	3	17.6	18

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.4 : SEX RATIO (FEMALES PER THOUSAND MALES) IN FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

State/Village	Female-headed households	Male-headed households
(1)	(2)	(3)
<u>Karnataka</u>		
Thamasandra	776	746
Keralalusandra	1019	1000
Ambalpady	1530	928
Mattu	1701	1219
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>		
Amorah	1688	1167
Khirakot	1312	886
<u>West Bengal</u>		
Bergram	1167	1125
Gopalnagar	1320	1026
Belma	1457	948
Panchakhali	2750	988

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.5 : AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE INCLUDING AND EXCLUDING SINGLE-MEMBERED HOUSEHOLDS

State/Village	Female headed households					Male headed households				
	Number of households	Number of single member households	Average house-hold size	House-hold size excluding single member-house-holds	Total persons	Number of households	Number of single member households	Average house-hold size	House-hold size excluding single member-house-holds	Total persons
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
<u>Karnataka</u>										
Thamasandra	28	5	4.4	5.2	124	162	1	6.3	6.4	1025
Keralalusandra	39	6	4.1	4.7	160	183	-	5.5	5.5	1006
Ambalpady	48	1	5.9	6.0	283	142	1	7.0	7.1	998
Mattu	112	4	5.3	5.5	598	218	3	7.1	7.1	1537
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>										
Amorah	21	2	4.1	4.2	86	130	1	6.3	6.4	822
Khirakot	63	3	5.2	5.4	329	90	-	5.7	5.7	516
<u>West Bengal</u>										
Bergram	33	4	4.9	5.4	161	159	3	5.4	5.5	859
Gopalnagar	30	3	3.9	4.2	117	153	1	5.2	5.2	794
Belma	25	7	2.4	3.0	61	107	2	5.5	5.6	588
Panchakhali	26	10	3.5	5.0	90	183	2	5.3	5.4	975

TABLE P.6 : PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS BY MARITAL STATUS

State/Village	Female heads of households			Male heads of households		
	Never Married	Currently Married	Widowed/ Divorced/ Separated	Never Married	Currently Married	Widowed/ Divorced/ Separated
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
<u>Karnataka</u>						
Thamasandra	nil	29	71	nil	98	3
Keralalusandra	2	13	85	2	97	1
Ambalpady	nil	31	69	4	90	6
Mattu	nil	43	57	5	90	5
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>						
Amorah	nil	48	52	nil	94	6
Khirakot	nil	73	27	nil	92	8
<u>West Bengal</u>						
Bergram	nil	36	64	3	93	4
Gopalnagar	nil	20	80	1	96	3
Belma	nil	12	88	2	96	2
Panchakhali	nil	4	96	3	96	2

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.7 : PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS BY LAND POSSESSED GROUPS

State/Village	Female headed households						Male headed households					
	possessing land (in 0.00 acres)						possessing land (in 0.00 acres)					
	0.00	0.01- 0.49	0.50- 0.99	1.00- 2.49	2.50 & above	total	0.00	0.01- 0.49	0.50- 0.99	1.00- 2.49	2.50 & above	total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
<u>Karnataka</u>												
Thamasandra	35.7	3.51	14.2	25.0	21.4	100.00	20.9	3.0	4.9	33.3	37.6	100.00
Keralalusandra	53.9	-	-	28.2	17.9	100.00	28.9	1.0	4.9	30.0	34.9	100.00
Ambalpadu	18.7	37.4	10.4	22.9	10.4	100.00	23.2	33.8	11.9	18.3	12.6	100.00
Mattu	33.9	25.8	17.8	20.5	1.7	100.00	27.0	27.0	14.6	25.2	5.9	100.00
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>												
Amorah	-	23.8	47.6	28.5	-	100.00	-	23.8	18.4	30.0	24.6	100.00
Khirakot	15.8	49.2	31.7	3.1	-	100.00	37.7	25.5	25.5	10.0	1.1	100.00
<u>West Bengal</u>												
Bergram	9.0	39.3	9.0	18.1	24.2	100.00	1.2	35.2	4.4	14.4	44.6	100.00
Gopalnagar	-	70.0	3.3	10.0	16.6	100.00	0.6	41.8	10.4	13.7	33.3	100.00
Belma	4.0	24.0	-	56.0	16.0	100.00	2.8	12.1	3.7	42.9	38.3	100.00
Panchakhali	30.7	11.5	26.9	23.0	7.6	100.00	1.6	7.1	15.3	30.5	45.3	100.00

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.8 : PER CAPITA LAND POSSESSED (IN ACRES) IN FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

State/Village	Total no. of		Total land possessed(acres)		Total no. of household possessed		per capita land possessed(acres)	
	FHH	MHH	FHH	MHH	FHH	MHH	FHH	MHH
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
<u>Karnataka</u>								
Thamasandra	28	161	31.6	426.4	124	994	0.3	0.5
Keralalusandra	29	188	46.3	418.3	159	1002	0.3	0.5
Ambalpady	47	143	38.5	139.5	286	999	0.2	0.2
Mattu	112	118	45.5	135.6	493	1153	0.1	0.2
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>								
Amorah	21	130	17.6	249.3	86	836	0.2	0.3
Khirakot	67	84	14.0	26.4	295	555	0.1	0.1
<u>West Bengal</u>								
Gopalnagar	30	53	32.9	327.8	101	813	0.4	0.4
Belma	25	107	62.5	295.8	95	556	0.7	0.5
Panchakhali	26	183	23.4	597.5	61	1013	0.4	0.6
Bergram	33	161	56.5	429.9	156	865	0.4	0.5

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.9 : PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS BY
POVERTY LEVEL (POVERTY LEVEL = PER CAPITA MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF Rs.100)

State/Village	Below poverty level		Above poverty level	
	female headed household	male headed household	female headed household	male headed household
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>Karnataka</u>				
Thamasandra	32	20	68	80
Keralalusandra	23	16	77	84
Ambalpady	23	15	77	85
Mattu	17	22	83	78
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>				
Amorah	71	83	29	17
Khirakot	41	46	59	54
<u>West Bengal</u>				
Bergram	94	84	6	16
Gopalnagar	100	91	-	9
Belma	100	96	-	4
Panchakhali	92	86	8	14

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P. 10 : PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MAIN BARNERS BY THEIR
RELATION TO THE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS

State/Village	Male headed households						Female headed households					
	self	wife	son/ daugh- ter	others	not re- ported	total	self	hus- band	son/ daugh- ter	others	not re- ported	total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
<u>Karnataka</u>												
Thamasandra	95.6	-	4.3	-	-	100.0	28.5	7.1	57.1	7.1	-	100.0
Keralalusandra	92.3	1.0	5.4	1.0	-	100.0	48.7	2.5	38.4	7.6	2.5	100.0
Ambalpadu	85.9	2.1	11.2	0.7	-	100.0	41.6	4.1	31.2	16.6	6.2	100.0
Mattu	82.5	2.2	10.0	5.0	-	100.0	33.9	17.8	30.3	16.9	0.8	100.0
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>												
Amorah	83.8	0.7	14.6	0.7	-	100.0	42.3	33.3	19.0	4.7	-	100.0
Khirkot	83.3	-	15.5	1.1	-	100.0	15.8	68.2	14.2	-	1.5	100.0
<u>West Bengal</u>												
Bergram	92.4	0.6	6.9	-	-	100.0	33.3	24.2	39.4	3.0	-	100.0
Gopalnagar	98.0	-	1.9	-	-	100.0	60.0	6.6	33.3	-	-	100.0
Belma	93.4	0.9	4.6	0.9	-	100.0	48.0	4.0	28.0	20.0	-	100.0
Panchakhali	89.6	-	9.8	0.5	-	100.0	80.7	-	11.5	7.6	-	100.0

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.11 : PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS AND OTHERS IN MALE AND FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

State/Village	Percentage of workers and others to total number of members in			
	female headed households		male headed households	
	workers	others	workers	others
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>Karnataka</u>				
Thamasandra	54.3	45.6	42.7	57.2
Keralalusandra	67.6	32.3	53.3	46.6
Ambalpady	34.9	65.0	30.0	69.9
Mattu	33.1	66.8	30.9	69.0
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>				
Amorah	44.1	55.8	31.7	69.8
Khirakot	40.5	59.4	30.1	69.8
<u>West Bengal</u>				
Bergram	47.4	52.5	39.0	60.9
Gopalnagar	53.4	46.5	50.6	49.3
Belma	60.4	39.5	54.6	45.3
Panchakhali	68.8	31.1	51.5	48.4

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.12 : GENDER-SPECIFIC WORK-PARTICIPATION RATES IN MALE AND FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

State/Village	Percentage of workers in female headed households		Percentage of workers in male headed households	
	female	male	female	male
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>Karnataka</u>				
Thamasandra	44.4	62.0	24.0	58.2
Keralalusandra	58.4	76.9	48.8	64.4
Ambalpady	31.9	30.2	16.5	47.3
Mattu	35.1	24.1	23.3	39.4
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>				
Amorah	42.5	43.7	8.9	58.3
Khirakot	38.6	1.2	2.7	46.3
<u>West Bengal</u>				
Bergram	40.4	54.1	22.7	48.9
Gopalnagar	71.2	54.0	39.2	62.3
Belma	60.7	60.0	45.2	63.6
Panchakhali	75.0	47.0	43.9	59.0

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.13 : PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS BY ACTIVITY STATUS

State/Village	Self-emplo- yed		Regular hired labour		Casual labour	Atten- ding domes- tic duties	Atten- ding educa- tional insti- tution	Too old too young & others	Not reported
	in agr.	in non- agr.	in agr.	in non- agr.					
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
<u>Female Heads</u>									
<u>Karnataka</u>									
Thamasandra	43	-	14	14	-	18	-	7	4
Keralalusandra	18	-	33	28	-	13	-	5	3
Ambalpady	25	6	17	10	-	31	-	10	-
Mattu	13	9	17	2	2	43	-	15	-
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>									
Amorah	24	-	62	5	-	5	-	5	-
Khirkot	51	2	10	-	-	2	-	37	-
<u>West Bengal</u>									
Bergram	3	3	6	3	33	36	-	15	-
Copalnagar	7	7	13	-	40	20	-	13	-
Belma	60	4	8	4	-	12	-	12	-
Panchakhali	15	4	58	14	-	8	-	-	-
<u>Male Heads</u>									
<u>Karnataka</u>									
Thamasandra	62	2	14	17	-	-	-	6	-
Keralalusandra	58	2	15	18	-	1	-	6	-
Ambalpady	17	12	17	14	3	1	-	38	-
Mattu	26	18	17	11	-	2	-	26	-
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>									
Amorah	34	1	56	4	5	-	-	5	-
Khirkot	34	16	17	3	-	-	-	29	1
<u>West Bengal</u>									
Bergram	56	1	32	1	2	1	1	6	-
Copalnagar	35	3	17	-	39	-	-	5	-
Belma	78	-	19	-	-	-	-	3	-
Panchakhali	51	13	29	3	-	-	1	3	-

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.14 : PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS IN FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS BY ACTIVITY STATUS

State/Village	Self-employed		Regular hired labour		Casual labour	Atten- ding do- mestic activity	Atten- ding edu- cational institu- tion	Too young too old & others
	in agr.	in non- agr.	in agr.	in non- agr.				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
<u>Female headed households</u>								
<u>Karnataka</u>								
Thamasandra	32	-	18	4	1	17	12	16
Keralalusandra	30	-	33	3	1	12	10	10
Ambalpady	5	5	10	12	-	19	28	21
Mattu	8	9	4	9	1	23	35	11
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>								
Amorah	7	-	33	3	-	22	12	23
Khirakot	19	-	3	-	-	13	33	32
<u>West Bengal</u>								
Bergram	22	3	3	-	19	16	13	24
Copalnagar	17	2	9	-	24	16	11	21
Belma	36	1	22	-	-	12	12	16
Panchakhali	11	15	33	7	2	3	21	8
<u>Male headed households</u>								
<u>Karnataka</u>								
Thamasandra	25	1	18	-	-	16	22	18
Keralalusandra	31	2	19	-	-	6	17	26
Ambalpady	6	6	6	15	-	23	25	19
Mattu	11	6	5	7	1	25	28	17
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>								
Amorah	5	3	18	6	-	30	11	27
Khirakot	10	2	6	7	-	26	20	29
<u>West Bengal</u>								
Bergram	15	1	2	5	17	17	14	29
Copalnagar	16	1	6	6	27	10	7	32
Belma	34	1	17	1	2	10	17	18
Panchakhali	28	6	8	2	7	7	13	28

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.15(a) : PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS AS DECISION MAKERS
ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES

State/Village	Economic Issues							Social Issues	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
<u>Karnataka</u>									
Thamasandra	90	95	26	58	79	58	90	95	74
Keralalusandra	100	100	52	57	62	52	100	94	76
Ambalpady	98	95	55	55	63	78	100	80	85
Mattu	98	93	60	55	70	73	98	78	75
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>									
Amorah	100	91	76	86	-	29	91	62	57
Khirakot	83	33	18	23	18	20	88	8	33
<u>West Bengal</u>									
Bergram	100	85	73	61	100	82	91	79	73
Gopalnagar	100	97	97	90	87	80	97	77	77
Belma	88	84	72	68	84	88	92	80	68
Panchakhali	96	96	65	65	92	89	96	23	96

Note : 1 signifies decision regarding food items to be bought for household
 2 " " " clothing items to be bought for household
 3 " " " taking of produce of household enterprise to the market for sale
 4 " " " quantity, price and timing for sale of products to be sold
 5 " " " the purchase of durable and semi durable assets
 6 " " " the deposition or investment of household savings
 7 " " " keeping of money earned by household members
 " " " ~~marriage of son/daughter in the household~~

TABLE P.15(b) : PERCENTAGE OF MALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS AS DECISION MAKERS
ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES

TABLE P.15(b) : PERCENTAGE OF MALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS AS DECISION MAKERS
ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES

State/Village	Economic Issues							Social Issues	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
<u>Karnataka</u>									
Thamasandra	95	85	80	80	80	85	95	60	70
Keralalusandra	100	100	74	68	79	89	100	42	63
Ambalpady	85	88	58	58	53	85	95	60	75
Mattu	90	85	65	68	65	78	95	65	75
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>									
Amorah	73	73	73	73	87	13	-	73	73
Khirakot	43	98	5	5	83	58	95	43	43
<u>West Bengal</u>									
Bergram	83	83	67	72	75	100	100	97	100
Gopalnagar	68	77	68	71	48	97	100	100	100
Belma	76	76	76	76	76	76	88	88	92
Panchakhali	72	76	72	76	76	77	86	79	93

Note : 1 signifies decisions regarding food items to be bought for the household
2 " " " clothing items to be bought for the household
3 " " " taking of produce of household enterprise to market for sale
4 " " " quantity, price and timing for sale for products to be sold
5 " " " the purchase of durable and semi durable assets
6 " " " the deposition or investment of household savings
7 " " " keeping of money earned by household members
8 " " " marriage of son/daughter in household
9 " " " the education of son/daughter in household

TABLE P.16(a) : PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS
BY GENERAL EDUCATION

Female Heads of Household

State/Village	Illiterate	Literate but below primary	Upto middle school	Upto higher secondary	Graduate	Not reported	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<u>Karnataka</u>							
Thamasandra	96	4	-	-	-	-	100
Keralalusandra	100	-	-	-	-	-	100
Ambalpady	69	10	21	-	-	-	100
Mattu	76	5	16	3	-	-	100
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>							
Amorah	95	5	-	-	-	-	100
Khirkot	92	-	5	3	-	-	100
<u>West Bengal</u>							
Bergram	88	9	3	-	-	-	100
Gopalnagar	90	7	3	-	-	-	100
Belma	92	8	-	-	-	-	100
Panchakhali	92	8	-	-	-	-	100

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.16(b) : PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS
BY GENERAL EDUCATION

Male Heads of Household

State/Village	Illiterate	Literate but below primary	Upto middle school	Upto higher secondary	Graduate	Not reported	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<u>Karnataka</u>							
Thamasandra	76	6	12	4	2	-	100
Keralalusandra	81	7	8	4	-	-	100
Ambalpady	31	14	30	11	14	-	100
Mattu	34	12	33	12	9	-	100
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>							
Amorah	58	1	22	18	1	-	100
Khirakot	41	23	11	25	-	-	100
<u>West Bengal</u>							
Bergram	77	5	12	5	-	1	100
Gopalnagar	79	9	10	2	-	-	100
Belma	58	30	9	3	-	-	100
Panchakhali	57	32	8	3	-	-	100

Source : ISST Household Survey

TABLE P.18 : PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE AND MALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

State/Village	Female Headed Households			Male Headed Households		
	Tap/Tubewell		Other out- side sour- ces	Tap/Tubewell		Other out- side sour- ces
	For exclu- sive use	For common use		For exclu- sive use	For common use	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
<u>Karnataka</u>						
Thamasandra	5	79	16	35	40	25
Keralalusandra	-	86	14	-	89	11
Ambalpady	47	48	5	65	25	10
Mattu	42	55	3	50	45	4
<u>Uttar Pradesh</u>						
Amorah	57	33	10	7	33	60
Khirakot	-	13	87	-	5	95
<u>West Bengal</u>						
Bergram	6	46	48	17	22	61
Gopalnagar	-	93	7	3	94	3
Belma	-	100	-	-	100	-
Panchakhali	-	100	-	-	100	-

Source : ISST Household Survey

APPEND X I

MethodologySelection of states

1.1 The information provided by the secondary sources like the census and the NSSO indicate that although the overall proportion of female headed households is around 9.5 per cent¹ for all-India, there are considerable regional variations.

1.2 To capture these variations, four states were selected for the primary household survey : West Bengal in Eastern India, Karnataka in the South, Uttar Pradesh in the North and Rajasthan in North-West.

Selection of Districts and Villages :

1.3 The districts, talukas (sub-division) and villages were purposively selected to not only portray the variations in the incidence of female headedness, but also to highlight certain issues.²

1. To examine the issue of poverty and female headed households, two districts in West Bengal, viz. Birbhum and midnapore and one district in Uttar Pradesh, viz. Gorakhpur were selected on the strength of concentration of scheduled caste and schedule tribe population - these castes and tribes taken as proxy indicators of poverty.

2. Male out-migration is a long tradition in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh. This is also an important factor in the formation of female headed households. To capture this issue, Almorah district in Uttar Pradesh was taken up.

3. To see the effect of the matrilineal family system. Udipi taluka of South Kanara (Dakshina Kanada) was selected. In this area, tribes such as Bhunts, Chillana and Meghaveers follow 'Aliya Santhanam' - a form of matriliney.

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4. Utilisation of development inputs was the next issue. For this, Kenakapura taluka of Bangalore district was selected where sericulture promotion scheme are in operation.

5. An attempt has been made to understand and explain the low incidence of female headed households in north-western India. To do this, Bharatpur district of Rajasthan State has been selected.

Village Profile

1.4 In the light of these issues, four villages in the State of Karnataka, four in West Bengal and two in Uttar Pradesh were selected for an in-depth study and two villages in Rajasthan for a general study.

Karnataka

- (i) Thamasandra and Keralalusandra in Bangalore district selected to study the impact and utilisation of development scheme.
- (ii) Ambalpadu and Mattu in South Kanara district : selected for the study of the impact of matriliney.

Uttar Pradesh

- (i) Amorah in Gorakhpur district : selected because of a large concentration of scheduled castes.
- (ii) Khirakot in Almorah district : to study the effect of male-selective outmigration.

West Bengal

- (i) Bergram and Gopal nagar in Birbhum district and
- (ii) Belma and Panchakhali in Midnapore district : selected on the basis of high scheduled caste/scheduled tribe population.

Rajasthan

- (i) Mehtoli in Bharatpur district - a multi-caste village and Etrampura, a predominantly tribal village : selected to study the probable reasons for low incidence of female headedness.

The selection of the states, district and villages was therefore purposive and not random.

Selection of sample households

1.5 The selection of households was carried out in two stages

1. A complete listing of households was done to obtain information on certain socio-economic characteristics of both female and male headed households and of the head of household.
2. A maximum of 40 female headed households were selected by simple random sampling.

1.6 In those villages, where there were less than 40 female headed households, all of them were selected. To compare the characteristics of male and female headed households, a similar number of households were selected at random, from the total number of male headed households listed in each village (see Table 1.1).

Method of investigation

1.7 The first step was to organise village meetings, where the investigators, through informal discussion, explained the purpose and method of the survey. These meetings had excellent response and greatly facilitated the subsequent work.

1.8 Next, a house to house enquiry was conducted, when the schedules were canvassed.

1.9 In each village, one male and one female investigator were deployed for about 15 to 20 days. Female investigators facilitated the collection of information from the female headed households. The investigation was usually carried out in the early mornings and late evenings.

Period of investigation

1.10 The survey could not be undertaken simultaneously at all the sites. It was undertaken at different periods between May and December, 1983.

Schedules

I.11 Three sets of schedules were canvassed, the first, entitled 'listing schedule', was designed for complete listing of all households in the sample villages. The purpose of this schedule was to collect information regarding demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the households. Some important information about the heads of households (both female and male) were also collected through the listing schedules.

I.12 The second and third schedules, both entitled 'household schedules', were designed to collect detailed information from the female and male headed households. Socio-economic particulars for each member of the sample households were collected in these two schedules.

I.13 Of a total of 1952 households that were listed in the first stage, 425 were female headed and 1527 were male headed. Thus, female headed households were 21.8 per cent of total households (See Table I.1). This figure excludes the state of Rajasthan, where 125 households were listed in Mehtoli and 57 in Etrampura. Of these only 3 households in Mehtoli and one in Etrampura were female headed households.

I.14 For the detailed study, a total of 295 female headed households and a corresponding number of male headed households were selected. Thus, the total sample comprised 590 households, which were 30.22 per cent of the total listed households (See Table I.1).

APPENDIX II

Abstract of Case Studies Based on Interviews
of Selected Female Heads of Households

Case Study I. (Village Gopalnagar, dist. Birbhum, WB)

2.1 Jilapi Soren (60), widowed at 50, illiterate, 4 sons and 2 daughters, p.c. exp. of family Rs. 75, ST, 2-room mud hut. Her husband was a share-cropper, cultivating 4 acres of land. But after his death, her brother-in-law and other relatives belonging to her husband's family began to harass her to the point of physical violence. As a result she was compelled to return to her native villages. She has to work as casual labour in agriculture and at present her sons also work as agricultural labourers or share-croppers.

Case Study 2. (Village Gopalnagar)

2.2 Tulshi Bhandari (40), widowed at 30, illiterate, 3 sons and 2 daughters, p.c. exp. Rs. 60 backward caste (BC), one-room mud hut. Tulshi's husband was a barber and their financial condition was tolerable when he was alive. But his death left the family in dire straits and out of 5 bighas of their land, 4 had to be sold off. The remaining bigha had to be sold off to meet the wedding expenses of the eldest daughter. Tulshi eventually came to be supported by a well-to-do man of the village. Though she no longer receives regular financial aid from this man, her social status has deteriorated. The family somehow pulls on with the earnings of the two sons one of whom works as casual labour and the other under a shop-keeper.

Case Study 3 (Village Panchakhali, dist. Midnapore, WB)

2.3 Sohagi Membrom (70), widowed at 40, illiterate, 2 sons and 2 daughters, p.c. exp. Rs. 60, one-room mud house. The family land has been divided between the two sons who set up separate households about 15 years ago and from that time she has had to earn her living as a casual labourer or maid-servant. Occasionally she collects and sells firewood. Not being able to get regular work, she often faces extreme penury and starvation.

Case Study 4. (Village Pañchakhali)

2.4 Parbati Das (50) widowed at 47, illiterate, one son, p.c. exp. Rs. 80, one-room mud hut. The family's livelihood was cultivation but since the yield of land (2.3 acres) is very low, their additional livelihood is food-processing - buying rice and selling it in the form of edible parched grain (i.e. muri). She has to work for about 14 hours each day.

Case Study 5. (Village Bergram, dist. Birbhum, WB)

2.5 Snehalata Ghosh (33), married, literate, 2 sons, p.c. exp. Rs. 90, 4 kaccha rooms. The family is supported by the produce of land - the income of the husband as daily labour. The latter, however, is considered "dull and abnormal" and hence Snehalata is the head of the household. Her two sons attend educational institution. She occasionally contributes to the family budget by undertaking sewing for others.

Case Study 6. (Village Bergram)

2.6 Kusum Kumari Mandi (45), widowed at 40, illiterate, 3 sons and 2 daughters, p.c. exp. Rs. 60, ST, one-room mud hut. The husband cultivated 4 acres of land on share-cropping basis. At present the son is registered as bargadar (share-cropper) on that land but since the land is of very poor quality, it is Kusum's earnings as casual agricultural labourer that is the mainstay of the family.

Case Study 7. (Village Belma, dist. Midnapore, WB)

2.7 Pogi Soren (42), separated from husband at 33, illiterate, ST, one-room mud hut. The husband left Pogi after marrying a second time. Pogi and her son cultivate the 3 bighas of land that they own and they also work for wages on other people's land. Additionally they have set up a country liquor shop which is now their chief source of income. "They are now earning well and living happily".

Case Study 8. (Village Belma)

2.8 Shashi Barik (70), widowed at 30, 3 daughters, p.c. exp. Rs. 60/-, BC, one-room mud hut. "They used to pull on well by the income from cultivation of their own land. About

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10/12 years ago the eldest son of her eldest daughter forced her to sign away most of the land in his name and has kept the land in his own possession. Now she has only 2 bighas of land... After taking away her land forcibly they do not care any more for her... The small quantity of produce which she gets by share-cropping is quite insufficient... For want of food she is gradually becoming weaker day by day".

Case Study 9. (Village Amorha, dist. Gorakhpur. UP)

2.9 Sukha (40), widow, one son, one daughter, p.c.exp. Rs. 55, SC, one-room jhopri. Sukha's husband died just after her daughter's marriage was settled. Since then she has had a series of misfortunes. Her son met with a serious accident but as she had to borrow money from relatives and from the village Pradhan (chief), she had to send the son to work as an agricultural labourer in Punjab. Fortunately he could bring back enough money to pay off debts and to release the land from mortgage. (Now he works as an agricultural labourer in the village). Until her son grew up, she had a lot of trouble arranging for help with ploughing their small plot of 0.8 acre. Now marketing for the family is primarily her responsibility and she considers it a great burden. She remarks : "Really, life is very difficult".

Case Study 10. (Village Amorha)

2.10 Gilashi (32), married, illiterate, one son and one daughter, p.c. exp. Rs. 55, 2 room kaccha house. Some years ago Gilashi's husband had suffered a long spell of illness. The family incurred a debt of Rs. 2,000 at 25% interest and was compelled to mortgage the land (0.75 acre) to pay for his treatment and "for finding a job for him." Ultimately he took up a job as a chowkidar in Rajasthan. However, he does not send any money nor does he keep in touch so that the entire burden of managing the household rests on Gilashi. She works as agricultural labourer. She says "I find going to the bazar very difficult. I never had to buy anything before and I don't know how to judge the price or quality of goods on"

sale. Things are very difficult without my husband here".

Case Study 11. (Village Amorha)

2.11 Jonha, widowed a few months back, 1 son and 3 daughters. Jonha's is also a sad story. Her husband had to go to Punjab as agricultural labour in order to pay off debts incurred for his eldest daughter's marriage. When he fell ill the family had to borrow more money and to mortgage the small holding. Her eldest child - the recently married daughter - is only 10 years old hence it is Jonha who has to support the family by labouring in the fields when such employment is available. In Jonha's words, "Work is available for women only in weeding, paddy transplanting and harvesting. In winter there is sometimes some work in clearing rice. On days I have work, it is my daughter who cooks the food. Though, after cleaning and pounding rice for someone else I come home and do that too. While I am away working, my eldest daughter looks after the younger children. It is she who collects firewood all the year round. But she is still very young and can't do all the housework. Usually I do the cooking and clean the pans myself. When my husband was alive he used to go to the bazar. Now it is I who has to go... Sometimes I feel completely helpless ... There is no one to help me..."

Case Study 12. (Village Amorha)

2.12 Jageshara married, 6 sons and 2 daughters but only 1 son and 1 daughter living. Jageshara's is rather an unusual story because not only has she inherited 3 bighas of land from her father but she lives in her parents house with her husband, she asserts, "I have been head of our household ever since my marriage. Everything from our land cultivation and other family earnings is given to me. I am in charge of all household expenditure. I buy all the clothes and other things we need. The family spends what I give them-and-tell them to spend..."

Case Study 13. (Village Thamasandra, dist. Bangalore (Karnataka))

2.13 Maramma (45), married, illiterate, 2 sons and 1 daughter, p.c. exp. Rs. 190, semi-pucca house of 2 rooms. Her husband professes lack of interest in domestic affairs but is also considered to be unfit for managing the household. Maramma has assumed headship since 15 years. The family cultivates the owned land (1.5 acres) and also others land for wages. Maramma also rears cocoons for seri-culture. She is the recipient of an IRDP loan for purchasing livestock.

Case Study 14. (Village Thamasandra)

2.14 Malevadi Chikkamma (55), widowed at 51, illiterate, 5 sons and 1 daughter, SC, p.c. exp. Rs. 80, one-room jhopri. As all the sons work as agricultural labourers (at wage rate Rs. 7 per day) Chikkamma now attends to domestic chores only. Previously she used to work as agricultural labour. She is aware of development schemes like IRDP, Janata housing etc.

Case Study 15. (Village Keralalusandra, dist. Bangalore, Karnataka)

2.15 Hombamma (50), widowed at 45, illiterate, 2 sons, 1 daughter, SC, p.c. exp. Rs. 161. Gets old-age pension. Previously used to work as agricultural labourer but now her daughter and grandsons help her out.

Case Study 16. (Village Keralalusandra)

2.16 Munni Mallamma, widow, illiterate, 2 sons and 2 daughters, lives in a Janata house. An agricultural labourer, Mallamma assumed charge of her household and even when her husband was alive as he suffered from ill-health. Her sons attend school. Aware of development schemes such as IRDP.

APPENDIX III

Glossary of terms used in the survey

3.1 During the houselisting operation in the 11 selected survey villages, in the courses of canvassing the household schedule in the selected female and male headed sample households and also in the tabulation of the survey data, several technical terms indicating various social and economic categories were used for classification of household and also the members of the household. In this section, the operational definitions of a few of these technical terms the exact connotation of which is not easy to grasp are laid down here. Only a few important terms are chosen here as the others are self-explanatory. The definitions are as under:

3.2 Household : A household for the purpose of the ISST survey is constituted of usual or normal members who live together under the same roof of a dwelling unit which includes besides pucca, semi-pucca and katcha structure, shanties and zhoories also and cook food in the same kitchen. The temporary visitors or guests in the household are not to be considered a member of the household whereas a temporary absentees from the household are to be considered a member. Servants, cooks, paying guests having enjoyed boarding and lodging facilities in the household are also to be considered a member of the household whereas the married daughters visiting parent's house temporarily are not to be considered a member of the parent's household. Separated, divorced or widowed daughters or sisters living in the parent's or the brother's household are to be considered a member of the household. The overriding consideration for determining the membership of a household is staying under the same roof and not cooking food in the same kitchen. It should be borne in

mind that a household as defined above, may reside in one house which may contain one or more than one household.

3.3 Head of the household : During the survey operation, the person - whether male or female, who is declared as head by the household members has been recorded as head. In other words the person who is nominated by the members of the household as head has been considered head of the household, no matter if he or she is the main bread earner of the household or not.

3.4 Household means of livelihood : Means of livelihood has been defined as the profession, occupation or vocation by pursuing which the members of the household sustain themselves. There may be one or more than one economic pursuits which sustain the household. But for the purpose of recording information on the means of livelihood of the household in the survey schedule, only the main or principal means of livelihood which predominated over the last 365 days preceding the date of survey was considered. The means of livelihood were classified under the following six means of livelihood categories.

- a) self-employed agriculture
- b) self-employed in non-agriculture
- c) wage/salaried employee in agriculture
- d) wage/salaried employee in non-agriculture
- e) other rural labour
- f) others.

3.5 Household group : The term household group has been used in the survey to identify whether the survey household belongs to

- a) scheduled caste
- b) scheduled tribe
- c) backward caste
- d) others

In the Statute Book of Government of India, for the purpose of offering certain out of turn social or political or economic benefit to the less privileged and/or or backward and tribal community or castes a list of such communities is appended. Since the names of such communities are scheduled in the Statute Book, they are treated as scheduled caste, scheduled tribe etc. The category entitled 'others' is the residual category which covers the remaining households not already identified by the categories listed above.

3.6 Household land possessed : The amount of land found to be in possession of the household as on the date of the survey (and measured in terms of acres in two decimal places) constitutes the total land possessed by the household. The total land owned by the household plus the total leased in minus the total land leased out by the household will make the total land under the possession of the household on the date of survey.

3.7 Dominant activity : Dominant activity of the head as also the other members of the household has been defined as the gainful (economic) or other non-gainful activity (non-economic) of the person which dominated over all the activities pursued by the person over the 365 days preceding the date of survey. A person may remain economically active for sometime and economically inactive for the remaining period of reference (i.e. 365 days preceding the date of survey). In deciding his/her dominant activity, the gainful activity (or inactivity) which dominated over the major period of time of the reference period was considered. While being gainfully active one may either be employed or may be without employment but only seeking or available for work (without actually seeking the same). Also one may neither be employed nor seeking/available for work but remain engaged for the major period of the reference period in pursuing

household chores, namely, cooking, fetching drinking water for the household, caring household children etc. In deciding the dominant activity of a person (head of household or other members), the investigators were asked to ascertain in which one, out of the three broad activity categories given below, the person spent the major period of the reference time. The three broad activity categories were.

- a) activity of being employed
- b) activity of seeking or being available for work
- c) activity of being engaged in household chores or other non-economic activity.

In recording the dominant activity and also other non-economic activity of the persons in the survey schedule, the following detailed activity categories, which are only the further sub-divided categories built up from the above three broad categories, were taken into account :

- a) self-employed in agriculture
- b) self-employed in non-agriculture
- c) regular hired labour in agriculture
- d) regular hired labour in non-agriculture enterprise
- e) casual labour
- f) cooking, childcare, fetching of drinking water, free collection of firewood, totoring of own children
- g) attending educational institution
- h) too young to work
- i) too old or disabled
- j) pensioners/remittance receiver
- k) others.

The category 'others' listed under k is the residual category which includes any other activities not

covered under items i to j and also the category 'unemployed'. Since the number of such persons, whose dominant activity would be 'seeking or available for work' over the last 365 days preceding the date of survey, was likely to be insignificant in the rural areas, a separate category for 'unemployed' was not prescribed.

3.8 Main earner : The term main earner has been used in the house-listing schedule, only to identify the earning status of the head/or other members of the household who provides the major earning for the household. In a household there might be main earner and other earner. While the former provided the major earning for the household, the other earner was the person who only provided supporting earning for the household.

3.9 Per capita monthly consumer expenditure : Per capita monthly consumer expenditure is derived by dividing the total monthly consumer expenditure of the household by the size of the household both recorded in the survey schedule. Expenditure normal incurred monthly by the members of the household for purchasing and/or consuming goods and services required only for household consumption (and not used for household enterprises) is termed household monthly consumer expenditure. The survey investigators were asked to collect this information, through patient probing enquiry, from the household and they were also asked to arrive at the reasonable estimate of the household monthly consumer expenditure by trying to ascertain the average position of the monthly consumer expenditure over the last 365 days from the date of survey. This derived figure of the per capita monthly consumer expenditure broadly indicates the level of expenditure of the household.

3.10 Poverty level : The poverty level is the level of household expenditure which enables a household to consume 2400 calories per person per month. In the Sixth Plan

document, this level of expenditure for the rural areas was estimated at Rs.76.00 per person per month at the 1979-80 price level. Based on this estimate, the poverty level, for the purpose of the ISST survey was estimated at Rs. 100.00 per person per month by inflating the sixth Plan figure by the whole sale consumer price index prevailing during May-November 1983, as the ISST survey was conducted during this period in the different parts of the country. Thus, for the purpose of the survey, the household having per capita monthly consumer expenditure of Rs. 100.00 or below was considered as households 'within poverty level' and those having per capita monthly consumer expenditure above Rs. 100.00 was considered as households 'above poverty level'. These two terms have been used both for selecting the male and female headed households for the survey as well as for the tabulation of survey data.

3.11 Other terms used in the report

1. Scheduled Castes & Tribes : Certain castes in the Hindu caste hierarchy which were considered the oppressed castes and were placed at the lowest range of this hierarchy as well as the tribal groups in India were 'scheduled' after India attained independence. These groups were provided special facilities and reservations to help them overcome the cultural handicaps accorded by the social system. In spite of these measures, these groups continue to be the poorest of the poor in India.

2. Alaya Santhanam : This is a particular type of "Law of heritance" - under which "property vests in the females of a family and descends from mother to daughter." (Sturrock. J.ICS (compiled by) in Madras district Manuals - South Canara, Vo.I, 1984 PP. 55, 140). This custom, which probably came into being in the 13th Century, requires that women remain in their mother's homes after marriage.

3. The development schemes which is referred to in the Text of the report is economic development schemes only like the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) or the Training of Rural Youth in Self Employment (TRYSEM). In the Kanakapura area it also includes the special sericulture programmes as well as the Janata Housing Scheme which is also a local scheme.

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SURVEY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF
 FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLD IN RURAL AREAS : 1983

HOUSEHOLD SCHEDULE (HS)

STATE : *Chh.*

DISTRICT :

VILLAGE :

[1] identification particulars		[2] household characteristics	
1. state		1. household land possessed (0.00 acres)	
2. district		2. household means of livelihood (code)	
3. name of village/hamlet		3. household industry-occupation (code)	
4. stratum (household type)		4. household size: (i) adult male	
5. sample household number		(ii) adult female	
6. name of head of household		(iii) child male	
		(iv) child female	
		(v) total	
7. informant code		5. per capita h.h. monthly con.exp. (Rs 0.00)	

[3] demographic particulars of household members

serial number	name of usual household members	relation to head	sex : male-1, female-2	age : last birth day	marital status (code)	general education (code)	skill in technology/craft and agriculture (describe)	whether currently attending school/college (yes-1, no-2)	whether attending Govt. or private sponsored literacy centres (yes-1, no-2)	whether attending vocational/craft training centres (yes-1, no-2)	whether disabled/retarded
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)

* delete whichever is inapplicable

(4) Particulars about the female head

Serial No.				
(1)				
(2)	Why assume the role of head, reason (Code) *			
(3)	Whether main earner - (Yes - 1, No. 2) ✓			
(4)	If 'Yes' in col. 3, the description of work			
(5)	How many hours in a day normally spent for work			
(6)	If 'no' in col. 3, whether marginal worker? Marginal - 1, No. 2.			
(7)	If 'no' in col. 6, whether receive remittance (Yes - 1, No - 2)			
(8)	If 'Yes' in Col. 7, source of remittance (Code)+.			
(9)	Whether normally engaged in hh. cooking? (Yes - 1, No - 2)			
(10)	Whether normally fetch drinking water from outside household? (Yes - 1, No - 2)			
(11)	Whether normally attend to hh. farm/non-farm work if any? (Yes - 1, No - 2)			
(12)	Whether attend to hh. cattle if any? (Yes - 1, No - 2)			
(13)	Whether normally attend to hh. kitchen garden if any? (Yes - 1, No. 2)			
(14)	Whether go to market to purchase daily, monthly, necessities? (Yes - 1, No. 2)			

(5) Remarks of Investigator :

(6) Remarks of Supervisor :

* reason code : widowed - 1, separated - 2, divorced - 3, husband migrated - 4, customary head - 5.
 + source of reluctance : from emigre son - 1, from emigre husband - 2, other relation - 3, from other source - 4.

(4) List of households

1	SL.No.		
	2	Name of head	
	3	Sex	Demographic Particulars of head
	4	Age	
	5	Marital status	
	6	Education	
	7	Activity status	
	8	Description of activity	If gainfully employed (usually)
	9	Industry	
	10	Occupation	
	11	Whether usually main head earner (Yes-1, No. - 2)	
	12	Total house hold land possessed on date of Survey	
	13	Adult - Male	Household size (normal)
	14	Adult: female	
	15	M	
	16	F	
	17	Monthly percapita household expenditure	
	18	Household group : SC/BC-1, ST-2, B2 - 3	
	19	Whether fellow : (Yes - 1, No - 2)	

[5.1] consumption of food and non-food items during the month ended on

item serial number	description of items	unit	cash purchase		consumption out of home-grown stock		total consumption	
			qty. (0.00)	value Rs. (0.00)	qty. (0.00)	value Rs. (0.00)	qty. (0.00)	value (Rs. 0.00)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	rice and its products	Kg						
2	wheat and its products	Kg						
3	other major cereals(describe)	Kg						
4	other minor cereals(describe)	Kg						
5	gram and its products	Kg						
6	cereal substitute	Kg						
7	pulses	Kg						
8	milk and milk product	x	x		x		x	
9	edible oil	Kg						
10	meat, egg, fish	x	x		x		x	
11	vegetables	Kg						
12	fruits	x	x		x		x	
13	sugar	Kg						
14	salt	Kg						
15*	spices	gm.						
16	beverages	x	x		x		x	
17	prepared food and snacks including tea	x	x		x		x	
18	other (food items).....(specify)	x	x		x		x	
19	total food (items 1 - 18)	x	x		x		x	
20	pan & tobacco	x	x		x		x	
21	intoxicant	x	x		x		x	
22	fuel	x	x		x		x	
23	light	x	x		x		x	
24	other (non-food items(specify)							
25	total non-food (items 20-24)	x	x		x		x	
26	total (19 + 25)	x	x		x		x	

* See item 15 in whole no. of grams only.

srl. no.	description of probing questions	ans- wers	srl. no.	description of probing questions	ans- wers
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	since when the present head assume the headship of the household? (in years)			5(d): if code '1' is recorded against question 5(c), the source of remittance (code)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	why the headship assumed? (code)				
3.	headship status (code)			5(e): if code '2' is recorded against question 5(c), whether receive any kind of pension? (yes-1, no-2)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	if code '2' or '3' is recorded against question 3 :				
	4(a): the type of work performed (code)	<input type="checkbox"/>		5(f): if code '1' is recorded against question 5(c), the nature of pension (code)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4(b): how many hours (00) on a day normally spent in work?	<input type="checkbox"/>		6. whether normally fetch drinking water from outside household? (yes-1, no-2)	
	4(c): since when assumed the role of main earner or marginal earner (supporter)	<input type="checkbox"/>		7. whether normally engaged in household cooking? (yes-1, no-2)	
	4(d): hours (00) spent on :				
	(i) child care	<input type="checkbox"/>		8. whether normally wash household utensils? (yes-1, no-2)	
	(ii) other household work	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	(iii) free collection of fire-wood etc	<input type="checkbox"/>		9. whether looks after household dairy, poultry, if any? (yes-1, no-2)	
5.	if code '1' is recorded against question 3 :			10. whether attend to household livestock? (yes-1, no-2)	
	5(a): whether work intermittently in household farm or non-farm enterprise or as hired labour ? (yes-1, no-2)	<input type="checkbox"/>		11. whether maintains and regularly looks after household kitchen garden? (yes-1, no-2)	
	5(b): if code '1' is recorded against question 5(a), the type of work performed (code)	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	5(c): whether live mainly on remittance? (yes-1, no-2)	<input type="checkbox"/>		12. whether regularly does household shopping to purchase household necessities? (yes-1, no-2)	

7.1 : on economic issues :

srl. no.	description of the questions	ans- wers	srl. no.	description of the questions	ans- wers
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	who keeps the money earned by the household members? (code)		6.	who takes decision about the quantity of produce to be sold and the prices to be fixed and when to be sold? (code)	
	who is the legal owner of (i) house (code)				
	(ii) land (code)		7.	who becomes legal owner of the additional durable or semi-durable assets of the household to be purchased? (code)	
3.	who normally takes decision on the food items to be bought (daily or monthly) for the household? (code)		8.	who takes decision about the purchase of such durable or semi-durable assets?	
4.	who normally takes decisions on clothings to be purchased for the household? (code)		9.	who takes decision about the deposition or investment of household savings, if any? (code)	
5.	who takes the produce of household farm or non-farm enterprise to the market for sale? (code)				

7.2 : on social issues :

srl. no.	description of the questions	ans- wers	srl. no.	description of the questions	ans- wers
(1)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	who takes decision on the marriage of son or daughter in the household? (code)		4.	if code '1' is recorded against question 3, who suggested that it should be practised? (code)	
			5.	has there been a marriage in the household recently? (yes-1, no-2)	
2.	who decides on the education of the son, daughter and other members of household? (code)		6.	if code '1' is recorded against question 5, was there any dowry given or taken? (yes-1, no-2)	
3.	does any member of the household couples practice family planning? (yes-1, no-2)		7.	if code '1' is recorded against question 6, who took this decision? (code)	

[8] particulars of field investigations, supervision and scrutiny

srl. no.	items	Investigators	Supervisor	Scrutinisor
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	name			
2.	code no.			
3.	date of interview/ supervision/scrutiny			
4.	signature			
5.	date			

[9] remarks by investigator

Blank area for [9] remarks by investigator.

[10] remarks by supervisor

Blank area for [10] remarks by supervisor.